

THINKING OF BUYING YOUR CHILD A SMARTPHONE FOR CHRISTMAS? HERE ARE SOME OTHER OPTIONS ...



SAFETY ON HAND

SMARTWATCHES FROM £75

Voice calls, video calls, messaging, GPS tracking and more: smartwatches such as Moochies, Xplora and Spacetalk offer all of the useful bits alongside a whole host of extra security and parental controls to keep your child safe and well. There is no web browser or social media to worry about.



7 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

How old is your child?

Experts recommend delaying smartphones until 14.

How developed are their social skills?

Smartphones can amplify social struggles.

Are they responsible with their belongings?

Do they risk losing or breaking an expensive smartphone?

Do they struggle with screen limits?

Smartphones often become another battleground.

Are they ready to have difficult conversations about online dangers?

If not, then they're probably not ready for a smartphone.

Are you ready to monitor their usage?

This takes consistency and commitment.

What is your reason for buying them a smartphone?

Logistics and safety? There are cheaper, safer alternatives.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

SIMPLE PHONES FROM £20

Look familiar? Nineties fashion is back — and so are nineties Nokias. From the classic Nokia 105 to the Nokia 2660 Flip, these phones do the basics brilliantly: talking, texting and, of course, Snake. Plus, they never run out of battery. Just be sure to add a calls-and-text-only SIM for total peace of mind.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

IPHONE STYLE FROM £200

But smarter, safer and less addictive. There are some incredible phones coming on to the market, designed specifically to remove distractions and dangers — but still with the “cool” factor. The Light Phone and Wisephone hail from the US but work in the UK.



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SIGN THE HEADCORN
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to delay giving your
child a smartphone