

# Is Your Child Ready for a Smartphone:



What You Need to Know Before Handing Over the Smartphone

## An Introduction to Your Child's First Smartphone

While promising exciting opportunities, your child's first smartphone also presents new responsibilities to ensure safe and positive online experiences for your child. Learn if your child is ready for a smartphone and how to navigate this milestone with confidence.



## 2 Key Questions to Help You Decide

### Does my child need a smartphone?



#### Safety and Connectivity:

A smartphone ensures your child is contactable, giving you peace of mind.

#### Schoolwork:

Your child might need a smartphone for school-related activities. You may let them use your phone only for this purpose.



### Is my child ready for a smartphone?



#### Sense of Responsibility:

Assess your child's level of responsibility. If they often misplace their homework, schoolbag, or allowance, they might not be able to take care of a smartphone.

#### Obedience:

If your child finds it difficult to obey simple rules, they might not be ready for the more complicated rules of smartphone use.

#### Peer Pressure:

It's important that your child can handle peer pressure and say no to unwise choices like sexting or cyberbullying. Wanting a smartphone just to fit in is understandable but it shouldn't be the sole reason for getting one.



While a smartphone can help your child connect with their friends, it's important to consider other factors that determine if your child needs a smartphone and if they are ready for one.

## My Child is Ready!

Here's what to do before you hand over the smartphone:



1

### Create a Family Contract

Establish family smartphone rules by setting usage limits, reminding them to not share personal information, and to always seek parental approval if in doubt.

2

### Activate Parental Controls

Install parental controls and explain to your child why it's necessary.



3

### Lead by Example

Be a Role Model for responsible smartphone use. Go tech-free during mealtimes to connect with your child daily and limit your own device use.

4

### Keep Communications Open

Talk to your child about your own smartphone experiences, emphasising online safety. Be involved with their online activities in the first few months.



If you are ready to give your child a smartphone, start the conversation early before you hand them the device. Make it clear that you value an honest relationship and let them know they can always come to you with their questions and concerns.



Visit [www.digitalforlife.gov.sg](http://www.digitalforlife.gov.sg) for more tips on parenting in the digital age.

