

# Smartphones vs. 'Dumb' phones

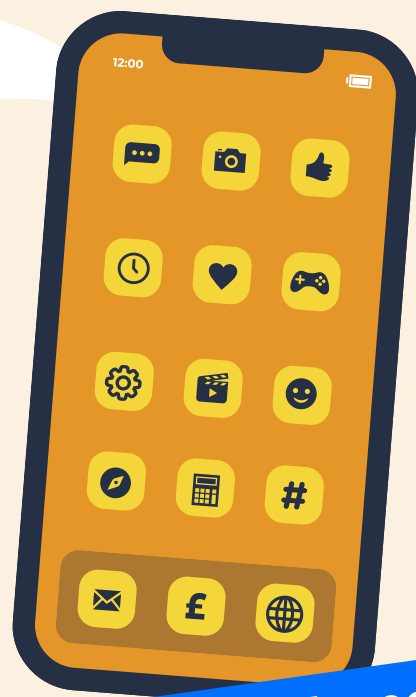
Guidance to help you choose the right mobile phone for your child.

## Features

- Internet access to learn, play and browse;
- A range of available apps;
- Contact with friends and family through calls, texting and social apps;
- Built-in and additional parental controls available for safety;
- Tracking and monitoring abilities for parents;
- User-friendly keyboard and features;
- A range of models and price points;
- Various mobile plans for data, messaging and calls.

## Limitations

- Some models can be very expensive;
- Access to the internet presents more risk for potential harm;
- Shorter battery life compared to a dumb phone.



## 'Dumb' phone



## Features

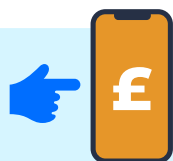
- Little or no app access except for built-in games on some mobiles to limit distractions;
- Contact with friends and family through calls and texting;
- A selection of models and mobile plans at largely affordable price points;
- Longer battery life compared to smartphones.

## Limitations

- No access to the internet or additional apps;
- Communication restricted on many models to calls and text rather than apps that children's friends might use;
- Limited or no parental controls or tracking features for safety;
- Text messaging is less user-friendly on many models.

# Supporting resources

Use these resources to help you buy, set up and manage your child's mobile phone.



[Mobile tech buying guide](#)



[Smartphone parental controls](#)



[Second-hand device guide](#)



[Get smart about smartphones](#)



[First connected device guide](#)



[How to turn a smartphone into a 'dumb' phone](#)

## Get personalised advice straight to your inbox

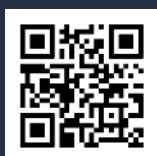
Want support to stay on top of your kids' digital lives? Together, we've got this, with our free personalised family digital toolkit. By completing the form you'll get:

- Age-specific checklists and guides
- Safety information on the latest apps and platforms
- Resources to tackle online concerns by age
- Interactive tools to encourage discussions on key topics

Scan the QR code or go to [internetmatters.org/toolkit](https://internetmatters.org/toolkit)



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