

One very good reason why children should have a mobile phone is that parents can stay in touch with them at almost all times. A child can let their parent know that a gymnastics lesson or baseball practice has finished early, for example.

Although the increased independence that a mobile phone might offer a child can be good, it can also be a negative. With a mobile phone, children will have another way to communicate with the outside world. Most mobile phones offer almost complete access to the Internet and a wide array of apps that are much harder to filter and control than a home computer.

Mobile phones can be expensive. Extra charges might apply for going over time or data limits, buying apps and music, and using the internet. And that doesn't include the cost of a replacement phone if children lose their phone.

Parents can easily get in touch with their children in case of an emergency. This extra sense of security and safety is probably the only reason that parents should even consider getting a younger child a mobile phone.

A mobile phone can also be an important way to keep in touch with an older teen, especially if they are driving. A phone with GPS tracking can help a parent know where their teen is at all times.

Mobile phones may be a distraction to children. We all know that they are a distraction for drivers, but mobile phones can also be a big distraction for children crossing the street on foot, leading to more accidents and injuries.

Mobile phones also put children at risk for getting in trouble for sending, posting, or receiving inappropriate photos. Or a child might make prank calls or be blamed for them if a classmate takes their phone and uses it to make inappropriate calls.