

What are the best safety rules for cellphones?



Parents and caregivers:

Discuss these basic safety rules before you give your kid a cellphone.

Texting

- Be respectful, both to the people you're texting with and those around you.
- Be careful. Assume that even private texts can become public.

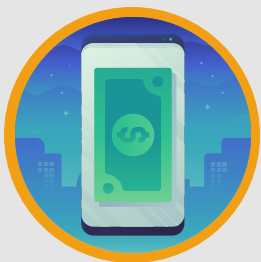


Calling

- Verify the caller (or texter). Don't respond to numbers you don't know.
- Always answer the phone when it's a parent or caregiver!

Taking pictures

- Ask permission before you snap someone's picture, take a video, or forward a photo.
- Don't publicly embarrass people. Don't post someone's photo -- especially an unflattering one -- from your phone without their permission.



Apps and downloads

- Follow your family's rules about what you can and can't buy, and whether you need permission to download.
- Depending on your family's rules, some content, downloads, and in-app purchases could be blocked.

Posting

- Think before you post. Be very choosy about what you post from your phone.
- Be safe. Sharing private information and using location services can be risky.



Information source: [commonsensemedia.org](https://www.commonsensemedia.org)