

Overview

Mobile phones now include many features of online access, so most of the same cautions you should take with Internet access should also apply. Mobile phones also carry the potential problem of “sexting” – the sending of sexual images via mobile phone cameras. Fortunately, all major mobile phone providers in the United States offer parental controls, though features vary and there is usually a small monthly fee in addition to the charges to the phone itself. Some phones such as Firefly and Kajeet are specifically designed for children, and offer much tighter controls and are especially good for younger children. Monitoring of mobile calls and messages is a controversial area of online safety, as this involves privacy concerns but may be necessary in some circumstances. Mobile phone providers have chosen to not offer monitoring capabilities, which they have left to software companies. Unless you want to monitor text messages and e-mail sent via mobile phone, there really is little reason to buy additional software, since mobile providers typically offer the most popular features. Price is based on the cost of subscription, which in many cases will vary with providers depending on which plan you buy.

We Recommend:

- Agens up to 7:** Mobile phones are generally not appropriate for children in this age group.
- Agens 8 to 10:** Mobile phones designed for children, such as Kajeet or Firefly.
- Agens 11 to 13:** Phone with a contact white list, GPS locator. Block sending photos, Internet access and texting.
- Agens 14 to 17:** Phone with a GPS locator and purchase restrictions. Consider monitoring if appropriate.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Internet.** Ability to block all Internet access.
- ✓ **Block Sending Photos.** Ability to block the taking of photos or the sending of photos.
- ✓ **Contact White List.** Ability to restrict contacts to a list of approved phone numbers.
- ✓ **Filtered Internet.** Internet filtering of mobile web browsers.
- ✓ **GPS Locator.** Ability to see via a web browser where a mobile phone is located.
- ✓ **GPS Zoning.** Ability to be alerted when a child’s phone leaves a predetermined geographic area.
- ✓ **Monitor Text Messages.** Ability to read text messages that have been sent or received.
- ✓ **Purchase Restrictions.** Ability to limit types of purchases through the phone, such as ringtones.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit the times the phone may be used.

Product	Average Reviews (w/ links)	Cost (USD)	Block Web	Block Sending Photos	Block Text	Contact White List	Contact Black List	Filtered Internet	GPS Locator	GPS Zone	Monitor Call Logs	Monitor Phone Calls	Monitor Texts	Purchase Restrict	Time Mgmt	Usage Allowance	Mobile OS
Mobile Phone Providers with Parental Controls																	
AT&T		+ \$4.95/mo	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Texts Only	
Firefly		Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
iPhone		Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Kajeet	Reviews	Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sprint		+\$5.00/mo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	
T-Mobile		Varies	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Verizon		+ \$5-15/mo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Parental Control Software for Mobile Phones																	
SMobile	☆☆☆☆½	+\$29.95/yr	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win; sym; Blk
Mobile Sentry	☆☆☆☆	+£5.99 UK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Symbian
MobiCIP	☆☆☆☆	+\$14.98/yr	iPhone	iPhone	iPhone	No	No	Yes	iPhone	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone
MyKidsSafe	Review	+\$5.99/mo	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Win; sym; Blk
MobileWatchDog		+\$9.95/mo	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win; sym; Blk
Net Nanny Mobile		+\$29.95/yr	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win; sym; Blk
Safe Eyes Mobile	Review	+\$19.95	iPhone	iPhone	iPhone	No	No	Yes	iPhone	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone