

CELL PHONE SAFETY Top 10 Tips For Kids

1. Only give out your cell phone number to people you know for sure you can trust.

2. Do not take any cell phone pictures or videos that are sexual in nature.

First off, if they involve nudity or partial nudity, they are illegal and classified as child pornography – a felony offense in most states. The intent of the parties does not matter, nor does whether permission was granted. Secondly, they have the tendency to get into the hands of the wrong people. Think about your reputation.

3. Do not send texts or capture pictures or videos on your cell phone that you wouldn't feel comfortable sharing with your parents, grandparents, and teachers.

4. Ask your self how you'd feel if...

...the text you sent, the picture you took, or the video you captured were broadcast across the whole school or all across the Internet. Even if you personally do not send it around, others can and often do.

5. Digital evidence

Remember that all of the texts, photos, and videos you create with your phone are saved and available as digital evidence. They are either stored on the servers of your cell phone provider, or on you cell phone provider's web site in your individual web-accessible account, or on the flash memory or SIM card of your phone and on other phones. This is true even if you've deleted them.

6. Schools can take your cell phone

School officials can confiscate your cell phone when they have reasonable suspicion that it has been involved in some violation of school policy or the law.

7. NEVER text and drive!

No text is worth losing your life over, or taking someone else's. If something is urgent, pull the vehicle over to a safe place before dealing with it. Don't allow friends to text and drive either. Insist they put their phone down while they are behind the wheel.

8. Having a cell phone is a privilege

It is not a right. Appreciate that your parents have allowed you to have one (and have often purchased it for you), and you'll earn more of their respect. Many kids have sabotaged their future (e.g., admission into college, scholarships, job opportunities, legal problems and costs, criminal prosecution, being placed on sex offender registries) because they have misused computers or cell phones. It is NOT worth it.

9. Don't respond to text messages from numbers and people you don't know

Learn how you can block certain individuals (via their cell phone numbers) from contacting you. Don't subject yourself unnecessarily to people who are mean to you when you can easily keep them from sending you any messages through blocking.

10. Keep your cell keypad locked

Keep your keypad locked and the password or PIN private. Don't allow people to grab it, unlock it, or use it to get you into trouble when you're not looking.
