

Pointers For Parents

Five Things To Consider When Buying A Cell Phone For Your Child

(NAPSA)—At a time when cell phones are a “must have” on most parents’ back-to-school “to-do” lists, and with so many models to choose from, it can be a challenge to know where to look and what to look for when trying to find a cell phone that suits your kids’ needs and a plan that doesn’t break the bank.

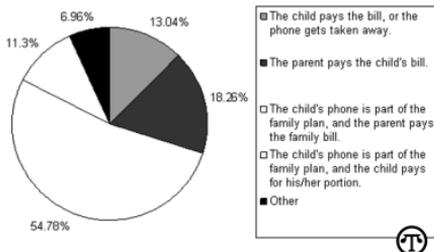
According to a recent LetsTalk.com survey, although nearly 67 percent of adults consider GPS capability to be the most important added feature on a child’s cell phone, nearly the same percent of parents believe kids would rank text messaging as their top feature.

“The good news is now there’s a middle ground,” said Joni Blecher, LetsTalk.com Editorial Director. “Kids can get a cell phone that offers text messaging, while parents can rest assured that many of these phones also come with GPS.”

Consider these tips when buying your child’s first cell phone:

Phones that give kids a sense of security. Make sure it is 911 enabled, which means even if there’s no service, the phone can still place calls to emergency personnel. Most phones already have this, but it doesn’t hurt to double-check.

Cell phones that monitor themselves. To monitor the amount of time a child spends making cell phone calls weekly or monthly, select a phone with call



timers, which record how much time was spent on calls; the Pantech C3 is a great choice.

Location, location, location.

If you want to be able to track your child via the cell phone, make sure it comes with a location feature. This is slightly different than GPS. You’ll be able to receive a text alerting you of your child’s cell phone location.

Prepaid plans can keep bills manageable. It’s true: Prepaid plans tend to have slightly higher per-minute costs. However, once the minutes are used, the cell phone is essentially out of service until either the start of the next month or until the account is replenished. Either way, you won’t encounter bill shock at month’s end.

A durable cell phone has longevity. Look for a model with rubberized casing or a rubberlike finish on the outside. These cell phones tend to be better equipped to handle the wear and tear of daily usage; check out the Motorola V365.

Check out www.LetsTalk.com/kids for more information.