

metangel

PREVENTION

EDUCATION

PROTECTION



When is
is the right time

When do you buy your child a smartphone?



Research tells us that the most common age for children to get their first smart phone is between 10 & 12 in readiness for them starting secondary school. It is not uncommon for them to own or have access to a smart phone whilst at primary school. There are a number of risks that children can be exposed to by having a smart phone at such a young age. However, if managed responsibly these risks can be reduced. It is important that as parents we take an active interest in our children's digital upbringing. This can be done by setting rules & boundaries, helping them develop a better understanding on how technology including smart



phones responsibly.

As well as educating our children it is important that as parents or guardians we educate ourselves with

the apps and resources available to ensure a structured, healthy and safe approach to our children's digital journey .

Some parents leave it as long as possible before making such a commitment , other parents can be early adopters and give their child a smart phone whilst in primary school. We all know our children's maturity levels and whether or not smart phone is the right choice for them at such an early age.

Parents have highlighted a number of concerns that they have by purchasing a smart phone for the children. These include

- Access to social media , taking photos and sharing them online
- Spending too much time on their device and it becoming addictive. Exposed to things that are not age appropriate .
- Cyberbullying and exposure to predators and online grooming
- No control on what they can access outside of the home environment.
- Sharing personal information with strangers
- Being influenced by fake news, celebrities and extremism.

There are a number of benefits by allowing your child to own a smart phone

- Be able to locate their device .
- Give you the ability to contact them.
- A better understanding of how your child is using their device.
- Helps with home-schooling.
- Apps to ensure that there are filters in place, blocking non age appropriate websites.
- Apps to help develop and maintain a healthy digital balance
- Apps to set the correct ages rating for apps and games

In conclusion there is no right or wrong time when to purchase your child a smart phone. , but at some point you won't be able to avoid the subject.

When you are ready to make that all important decision we would highly recommend taking the time researching what tools and resources are available to ensure you can continue to help support and nurture your child's digital journey .

Why not visit our website www.netangel.org or visit our YouTube channel and review our library of "How to guides" and informative videos. [Netangel - YouTube Channel](#)

Video When is the right time to buy your child a smart phone?

Topics Average age, main usage, concerns, what do parents want, parental control apps

Synopsis To be competent you must be knowledgeable and experienced. A child's brain is impressionable but is also developing at a rapid rate. Education is so important and Parental controls help parents ensure children are not exposed, at the same time stay part of their online world. As our children grow from infant to primary, to secondary controlled exposure and education shall help them cope with some of the difficult behaviors they will come across as they shall recognise this does not feel right and make their own decision.



Link to parental guide [Netangel - When is the right time for a mobile device](#)

App Norton Family Parental Controls

Includes Web filters, time keeping, location service, school time, search history

Synopsis Norton Family is a simple easy to use parental control app for your child's desktop and mobile devices. It allows parents to nurture a safe digital balance for the children and their devices and help them develop good online habits.

Price £29.99/year or included with the purchase of Norton 360 Deluxe and Norton 360 Premium which you can purchase direct through netangel.org/products





Information Video [Digital Footprint](#)

Synopsis Digital footprint or digital shadow refers to your unique set of traceable digital activities, actions, contributions and communications manifested on the Internet or digital devices. So why is it important to maintain a positive digital footprint throughout our digital life?

Link to parental guide [Setting up and configuring Google Family Link - Part Two](#)



Game Grand Theft Auto

Age Rating PEGI 18

Synopsis A series of action adventure games that focuses on an open world where players complete missions. The game is designed for 18+ and involves violence, bad language, drugs, sexual innuendos.

Link to parental guide [Grand Theft Auto \(GTA\) - What parents need to know.](#)



Leaders in Online
Safety Workshops
for you and your family



Angela Loveridge is a passionate Online Safety Consultant. She is on a mission to empower parents/carers (and professionals) to keep the children they have responsibilities for safe online. She is constantly doing research to identify tools and techniques that can give parents, carers and professionals a pragmatic approach to online safety.

Angela does this so that they are aware of a wide range of resources. This enables them to create their own unique online safety strategy by picking and choosing those tools and techniques that align with their parenting style and with the needs of their child(ren).

Typically, when most people attend a Better Together™ – Online Safety workshop they are hoping to get guidance on setting the parental controls on their devices. If you would like to access video walk-throughs, then NetAngel provide step by step instructions for a wide variety of devices and platforms.

This can be a great starting point. However, anyone who has a child with an enquiring mind will know that it's only a matter of time before they start trying to find ways to get around the settings that have been put in place.

This is why Angela has developed online safety workshops which cover a number of the key topics that parents, carers and professionals are concerned about when it comes to their child(ren) being safe online. Her SPECIFIC© framework helps parents, carers and professionals to remember the 4 main mediation options:

- **Supervision**
- **Parental Controls**
- **Expectations / Rules**
- **Communications**

In addition to this Angela has also researched, and continues to research, the online safety experiences of children/young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). As a result, parents, carers and professionals who are responsible for children/young people with SEND can also access additional resources which may help in the following areas:

- **Irony, Sarcasm, Jokes and Lies**
- **Friendships**
- **Intentions**
- **Child-Centred**

If you have no idea where to start with online safety or you have reached a point where what you are currently doing is not working, please consider signing up to a Better Together™ – Online Safety workshop.

In the meantime, watch this short animation (1 minute, 38 seconds) from Better Together™ – Online Safety. It contains a rule that parents, carers and professionals can benefit from straight away and on an on-going basis, if they stick to it, [Better Together™ Online Safety - TICK TOCK© Advice \(with subtitles\)\]](#)

About Better Together™ – Online Safety
Angela Loveridge has been developing and delivering online safety workshops since 2015 and was nominated for the NSPCC and AoCPP (formerly BASPCAN) Children Protection Trainer of the Year Award in 2018. Better Together – Online Safety workshops signposts parents, carers and professionals to a wide range of tools, techniques and resources so that strategies can be created that fit with the unique needs of the child.

For more information please visit the Better Together™ – Online Safety website: www.btogether.org.uk



Know the dangers of GTA
(Grand Theft Auto)



Select play to watch