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A Parent Zone Factsheet On: Giving your child a smartphone

Before you give your child their phone, there are some important tips to remember. It is best if you make these changes before handing the phone over, as it will become more difficult to make any changes after.

1) Control access to adult content (on the Internet) through Parental Controls. Different phone suppliers have different methods so visit their website or talk to your local phone shop
2) Ensure there are Parental Controls on your Wi-Fi rather than only the phone (as your child can connect to the internet through the Wi-Fi)
3) If the phone is 'Hand me down', remember to set Parental Controls
4) In order to block unwanted and unsafe messages through Bluetooth, deactivate the Bluetooth
5) Talk to your child about the sort of people and content they might come across online just in case they use a public Wi-Fi areas which could over-ride your Parent settings
6) Remind them to report any images they receive to yourself or an adult they can trust
7) Think of a time manager setting
8) Limit/block users - There are a number of apps that allow parents to block unsolicited messages from unscrupulous users
9) Think of installing a Lost Phone app

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