

Alternative Phone Options

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If you are concerned about your child having a “smart” phone and the dangers that it can pose, but aren’t sure about how to install parental control apps, there are a couple of options you can explore

1. “Dumb” phone – this is one that is pretty much only for texting and calls.



Optus Lite 4G

Pros

- No internet connectivity (cannot connect to Wifi or public networks etc)
- No app installation available (so no Snapchat, TikTok etc)
- Very good battery life
- Durable design

Cons

- Locked to the Optus Network, so you have to choose one of their plans
- Screen size is not overly big (2.4 inch)

\$59 at Woolworths
(21/2/23)

2. “Safe” phone (also known as “Smartkids” phone) – this has lots of the same functionality of a smart phone, but with all the parental controls already built in.

Opel Mobile SmartKids Phone

- **No camera** – Cameras are one of the biggest security threats to children so not having one gives extra peace of mind with regards to being socially responsible online.
- **App usage & blocker** – Be notified when a new app has been downloaded, remotely restrict apps as you see fit, or set time limits for each individual app.
- **Control screentime** – Set specific times and days that different apps can be used.
- **Location GPS tracker** – Access the SmartKids Phone real-time location as well as view the location history.
- **Create virtual safe zones** – Set up geo-fences and be notified when the device leaves or enters a zone, or if the phone hasn’t left or entered the safe zone by a certain time.
- **Whitelist numbers** – Activate a feature to create ‘safe contacts’ who are the only ones who can call the phone or be called, no unsolicited calls.
- **SOS emergency button** – A simple press of a button to SMS the phone’s current location and call up to five contacts.
- **Secure information** – All phone data is stored privately in Australia.
- **Activity report and history** – Easy for parents to see when calls and text messages have been made or received and any apps used.
- **Subscription free** – The SmartKids Phone is powered by the Opel Mobile Guardian App which can be downloaded for free from Apple Store or Google Play.
- **Low battery notification** – A notification when the battery is low, with real-time battery level able to be viewed on demand.
- **Phone case and screen protector** – The phone comes with a silicone shock proof case and screen protector for added protection in little hands.
- **4G VoLTE network unlocked** – Will work on any Australian or New Zealand 4G network, data connection is required.



\$199 at BigW (21/2/23)