

**I want to
have my own
smartphone
now too!**

**Yes, of course!
But...**

**A decision-making aid
for families about media.**

Mika has wanted a smartphone for a long time.
That's natural - many classmates already have phones.

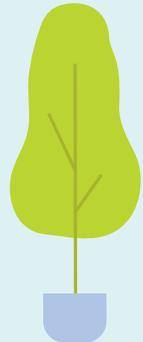
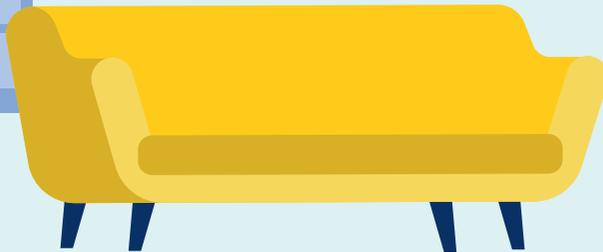
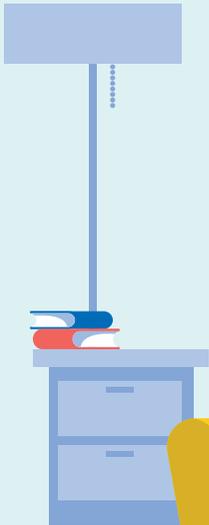
Mika's aunt doesn't need her old phone anymore and would like to give it to Mika. Just to be sure, she asks the family:



The parents start to ponder this.
Even Mika becomes thoughtful.



Why shouldn't
Mika have a
smartphone?



Every child has the right to be protected!

The following concerns and objections are brought up by children and adults when they think about children having their first smartphone:

some adults have dangerous and criminal intentions

it could become addictive

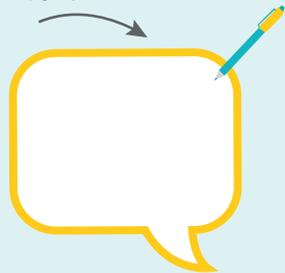
there are things on the internet that are not for children

other things could be neglected, like school and physical exercise

cyberbullying exists on the internet and the tone is rough

What are your thoughts?
Don't forget to ask your child too!

Add them to the list!



Oh, so there are justifiable reasons not to grant the child's wish. But aren't there also good reasons to have a phone?

The parents continue to think this over and ask their child.



Why does Mika want to have a smartphone?



Every child has the right to participate in the world and have a say in what happens!

Children and adults give these arguments for having a phone:

watch videos on YouTube and TikTok

not miss out on anything and be able to participate in things like school chats

quickly look something up on the internet

be able to do more independently, be less dependent

curiosity, try out new things, test one's self

What reasons can be given in your family in favor of a smartphone?
Children have their own ideas - just ask them!



The family is torn one way and another.

How can it be possible to grant Mika's wish for a phone and still sufficiently protect a child?



How can Mika be supported in using the smartphone?



Every child has the right to be encouraged in their development, abilities and independence!

The ideas of supporting and empowering occur to children and adults in connection with having their first phone:

agree on smartphone rules together

open conversations, trying out apps together

know and understand dangers

regularly do things together for a change

age-appropriate websites, apps and settings

What would be helpful for your child?

What should they know and be able to do?

Is there something that could empower you and your child?



This is helpful! Questions about media can be approached from multiple directions.

By weighing the **concerns and objections** against the **reasons for participating**, the parents with Mika find many **encouraging and empowering ideas**.

Together they put the ideas into practice. Everyone now understands: The more Mika knows and can do, the more the parents can trust Mika. The family is able to let Mika participate in the (digital) world and be protected at the same time!

When it comes to media, you, too, can use the concept of children's rights to find a balance between children's desires and questions about raising a child responsibly.
Good luck with that!



Der Kinderschutzbund
Landesverband Thüringen



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