

# What should we do when our children have a mobile phone?



A mobile phone enables our children to make contact and be contacted easily. **It is convenient** when they may come home late after attending an after-school club and *juku* (cram school).

We need to contact them in the event of disaster and other emergency situations.

A mobile phone can help keep our child safe in today's dangerous world.

It seems that most of their friends are beginning to have a mobile phone.

Our child will go on to high school next year.

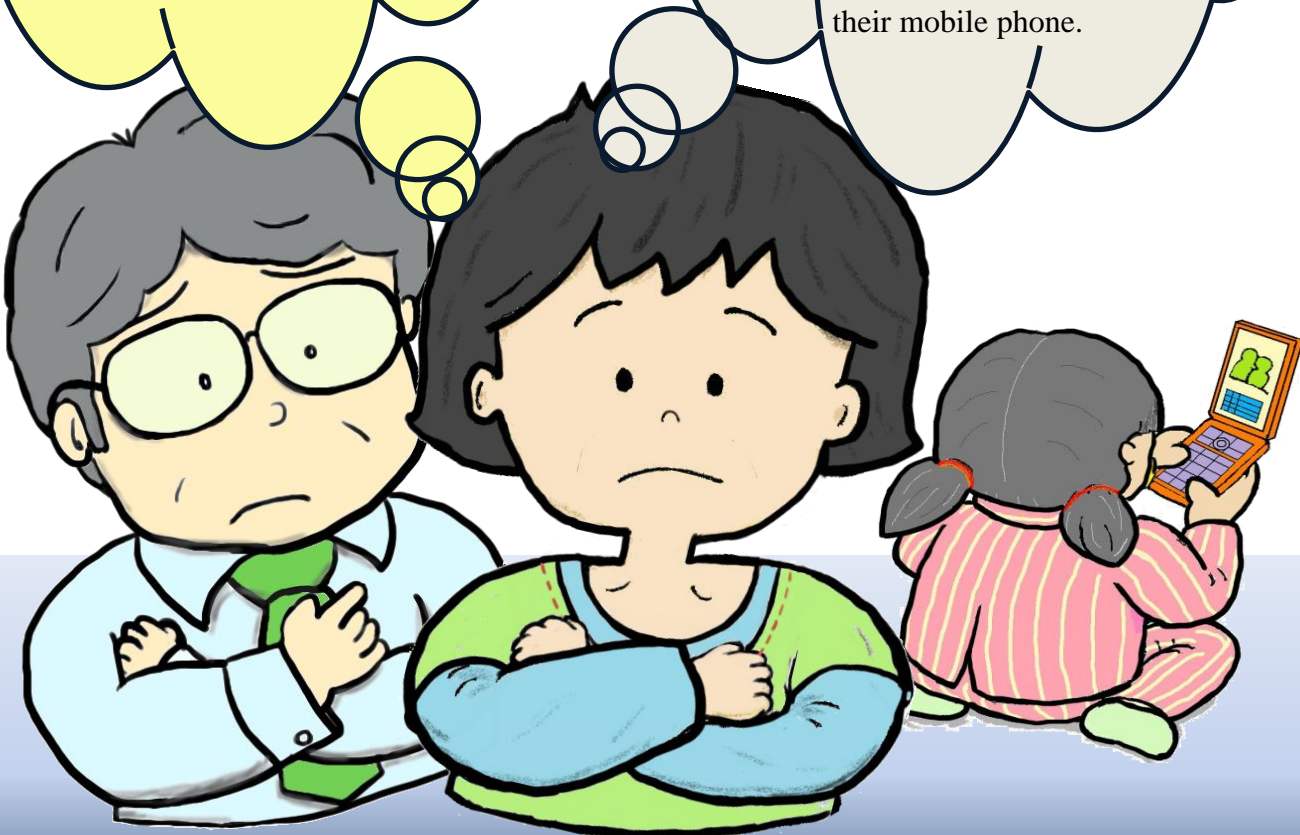
It is said that **there are risks** associated with mobile phones by the way in which they are used.

It may be too early for our children to have a mobile phone.

We don't want them to use their mobile phone all the time.

They can easily become connected to people they don't know well. The way in which they interact with their friends may change.

We are worried about what our children will do with their mobile phone.



**Gifu Consortium for Safe Internet Use**

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Anyone may get into any of the following troubles if they carelessly use a mobile phone.

### “Free” games, membership registration, and prizes

Free online games accessible from mobile phones are popular.

**It is true that they are free, but ...**

- ◆ Some of the weapons and tools that are used in games, as well as avatars, **may be charged.**



- A game player **buys an item that he/she believes is free**, but later, a considerable payment may be required.
- Trouble may occur **when a player gives an item to another player**.
- ◆ Upon registering a membership or applying for a prize competition, the applicant's personal information is also given to the other party.

- Entering the e-mail address, age, gender, and other personal information
- Sending a blank e-mail message

- The registered personal information may be **fraudulently used.**



### “Prof” (Profile site for self)

“Prof” is an online service that allows its users to share their interests. For this purpose, the user's photo is uploaded to the website.

**The user's real information are not on the website.**

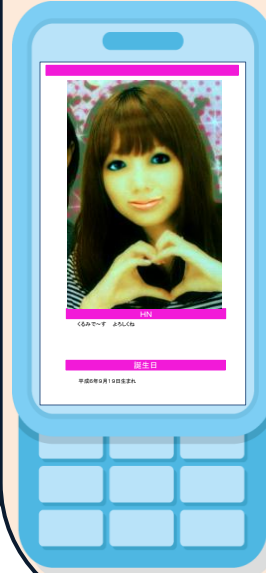
- ◆ Examples of personal information: Birthday, gender, school, hobbies, special skills, qualifications, favorite food, hairstyle, favorite movie, etc.

- A variety of combinations of information can be used for **individual behaviors**.
- This information may be used for **fraudulent purposes**.

- ◆ How a user can be victimized

**Example:**

- First, a user is contacted by someone with shared interests.
- Then, the user trusts the person and shares addresses.
- After that, they arrange to meet in person.
- In the end, the other person harasses the user.



#### Additionally:

Online games in which multiple players compete or cooperate with each other are popular, other than just playing individually. Unfortunately, these games have frequently been associated with cases of victimization. For example, a player is blackmailed by another player, both of whom have become acquainted with each other via an online game.

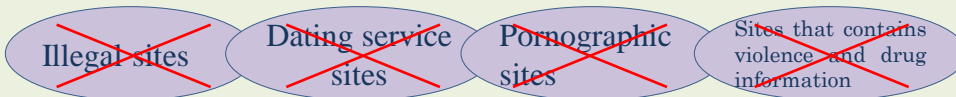
#### Additionally:

The information included in the Prof can be viewed not only by people of their age but also by malicious people. Such information is often used for the aim of looking for targets.

The following are some of the approaches that parents should adopt to encourage their children to make safe and responsible use of mobile phones.

### Filtering (access restriction service)

Filtering prevents children from accessing harmful websites.



- ◆ It is essential to consider children's age when restricting their access to harmful websites.

For example:

- Elementary school students are only allowed to access pre-approved sites.
- Junior and senior high school students are prohibited to access the sites that are categorized as harmful.

- ◆ Other measures to be taken if necessary.

- Setting time-limits on usage
- Restricting access points
- Customizing regulated categories

Mobile operators provide services that limit the access of children during late night hours, as well as functions or services that allow children to view only essential sites and bulletin boards.

**The Act on Establishment of Enhanced Environment for Youth's Safe and Secure Internet Use took effect in April 1, 2009.**

This law requires parents and guardians of children under the age of 18 to endeavor to manage children's appropriate use of the internet, including the utilization of filtering software that blocks harmful information for children.



### Allowing children to use mobile phones

It is important to focus on the benefits of mobile phones, not merely on its convenience, but also on its applications.

- ◆ The functions of mobile phones

Telephone



- ◆ Using a mobile phone to communicate

When children are going to juku classes, and in the **function** is usually used.

**Harmful events for children's communication.**

- Switch off e-mail and internet access.
- If parents let their children use mobile phones, filtering services.

## Introduction

Users find someone with shared information and put it on the internet.

## Personal name and address on the internet, but ...

Personal information on the Prof site:

Age, school year, blood type, star sign, height, weight, how to go to school, personality, hobbies, singers, future dream, favorite books, movies, and favorite type of boys/girls.

Personal information can **identify** an individual.

It may trigger **stalking** and **harassing** behavior.

Information of the users **can be misused** for various purposes.

Victimized

Used by the other party, by means of

the other party and they exchange e-mail

to meet face-to-face.

One party may assault, threaten, or sexually

## Bulletin Board System (BBS) and Social Networking Service (SNS)

More and more children write information on an "underground school website," which is a secret portal site or blog site used by school children. In addition, SNS sites on which only specified users are allowed to see messages are gaining a growing number of young users.

### It was intended to be a small joke, but ...

◆ Messages that are carelessly written by a user can deeply hurt the other person.

◆ Increasing use of passwords can prevent unauthorized users from accessing information, allowing only young users to use such websites.

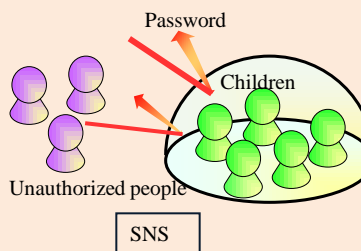
■ Problems among user friends has increased.

■ Children can communicate with each other without the supervision of their parents and teachers.

◆ SNS functions include:

Profile, sending and receiving messages, tracing friends, online journal (blog), games, and community services

■ This service can provide children with chances to connect with **people their parents do not know**.



## Other concerns include:

Bullying via e-mail

Troubles in online shopping

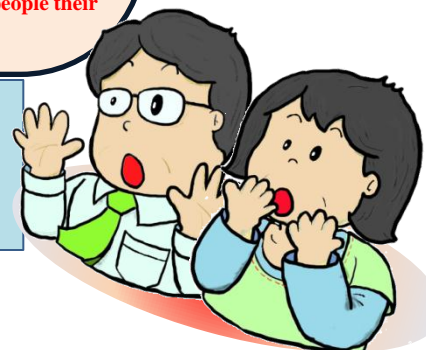
Illegal downloading and uploading

Sexual assault on dating service websites

Health concerns raised by prolonged use of mobile phones

### Additionally:

SNS sites are not filtered, unlike online dating websites. Young people can become easily acquainted with someone via these sites. As a result, they may end up meeting malicious people face-to-face, or being blackmailed by internet acquaintances.



## Children should use only what is necessary

Children's safe and secure use of mobile phones, not only by allowing the use of required functions and

phones include:

E-mail

Internet

Other

contact family members:

ing to be picked up after club activities or

the event of emergency, **a telephone**

enough for making contact with their parents.

Children occur mostly **via internet**

internet functionality.

When use these functions, it is essential to activate

## Family rules for children's use of mobile phones

It is important that parents and children work together to discuss and set ground rules (that is, make promises). Furthermore, parents should see if their children follow the rules, rather than leaving it entirely up to their children.

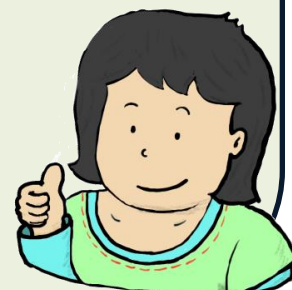
◆ When making promises, the following should be included:

- Children should not meet people they have become acquainted with via the internet.
- They should seek the help of a trusted adult soon after they get into trouble.
- They should not hurt, upset, harass or embarrass others, including sending or posting mean or unkind messages, via mobile phone. In addition, they should not disregard other children's cyberbullying.
- They should not send or post their personal information carelessly.
- They should set the times when they may use and must not use a mobile phone.

◆ Reminders to parents when their children fail to keep their promises:

It is more important to keep promises than to make them.

**Parents should be responsible** for their children's mobile phone usage. If children do not follow the set rules when using the device, parents need to warn their children, and restrict their mobile phone use if necessary. It is essential for parents to always know **how their children use** their mobile phone.





## Advising children on what to do if they encounter trouble

### Do not panic.



- Avoid acting rashly. When you get into trouble, do not hastily call or reply to the other party. If you do, you might reveal your e-mail address, name, address, telephone number, and other personal information, which may result in a more harmful situation.
- Keep “evidence records.” More specifically, print out received messages and bulletin boards, or take photos of them. These records may be useful when you discuss your problem with someone.

### Seek the help of a trusted adult.



- Do not try to solve a problem by yourself. Ask for advice from your parents or school teachers. Although the other party may threaten you or exploit your weakness, in order to lead you to keep it secret, you have to try to discuss the problem with other people.
- Parents should seek advice from consulting organizations (see below) and the school, if necessary.

### Act thoughtfully.



- What you have done with the aim of avoiding harm may actually worsen the situation or produce other unexpected outcomes. Therefore, it is crucial to give careful and considerate thought to the problem and act accordingly.
- Legal procedures may be required if you would like to call for the removal of slanderous messages. Consult organizations that deal with such matters.

## Websites of supporting organizations (only in Japanese)

#### ■ Slander and crime:

Cybercrime Office, Gifu Prefectural Police Headquarters  
<http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/police/kurashi-anzen/hanzai-kenkyo/cyber-hanzai/>

岐阜県警察サイバー

検索



#### ■ Billing fraud scams and fraudulent business practices

General Consultation Center for Gifu Citizens, Gifu Prefectural Government  
<http://www.pref.gifu.lg.jp/kurashi/kurashi-chiikidukuri/seikatsu-sodan/>

岐阜県県民生活相談センター

検索



#### ■ Human rights violation

Online consultation service for human rights, Ministry of Justice  
<http://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken113.html>

ネット人権相談

検索



#### ■ Materials to guide children

Information moral materials, Gifu Prefectural Education Center  
<http://gakuen.gifu-net.ed.jp/~contents/tyo/newpage1.htm>

岐阜県総合教育センター

検索



#### Gifu Consortium for Safe Internet Use

This organization aims to encourage children in Gifu Prefecture to use a mobile phone and the internet in a safe and secure manner. The body considers it vital to pursue the following efforts with parents: (1) to learn the appropriate use of mobile phones; (2) to take precautions against potential problems; (3) to develop the project via activities conducted by schools and PTAs; and (4) to promote the cooperation of various organizations in the community. With these in mind, the consortium has engaged in activities, including sending a safe internet usage instructor, in cooperation with schools, education boards, enterprises, and administrative agencies.

The Consortium for Safe Internet Use dispatches instructors free of charge for training sessions on mobile phone use, organized by schools, PTAs, local associations, and other groups. For further information, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.ip.mirai.ne.jp/~g-ikusei/consortium/>

ぎふコンソーシアム

検索



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