Android & Samsung Parental Controls: Complete Parent Packet

A practical, no-nonsense guide for managing parental controls on Android devices, including Samsung phones, using Google Family Link and Samsung's built-in tools.

1. Create a Google Account for Your Child (Required)

Each child must have their own Google Account managed through Google Family Link. Set this up on the parent device first.
Google Support: https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103338

2. Install Google Family Link

Install **Google Family Link for parents** on the parent phone and **Family Link for children & teens** on the child's phone. Sign in with the child's Google Account.
Google Support: https://support.google.com/families/answer/7101025

3. Lock the Device with Parent Controls

Family Link allows parents to remotely lock the child's device at any time. This is the Android equivalent of Downtime.
Google Support: https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103340

4. Prevent Passcode and Factory Reset Bypasses

Parents control screen lock changes and prevent device resets by keeping the child's Google Account under Family Link supervision. Removing supervision requires parent approval.

5. App Approvals and App Limits

Require approval for all app downloads, block inappropriate apps, and set daily app time limits by category or individual app.
Google Support: https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103242

6. Web Content Filtering

Enable SafeSearch in Google Chrome and block adult websites. For younger children, restrict browsing to approved sites only.
Google Support: https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103334

7. Location Tracking

Use Family Link location sharing to see the child's device location in real time.
Google Support: https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103235

8. Screen Time Reports

Review daily and weekly activity reports to identify problem usage patterns.

9. Samsung-Specific Tools (Optional but Recommended)

Samsung devices include **Samsung Kids**, which creates a locked, child-safe environment with curated apps and content.
Samsung Support: https://www.samsung.com/us/support/answer/ANS00082442

Age-Specific Android Setup Guidance

Elementary School (Ages ~6–10)
• Use Samsung Kids mode whenever possible
• Approved websites only
• Early bedtime device lock
• App installs require approval

Middle School (Ages ~11–13)
• SafeSearch ON at all times
• Social media apps limited by time
• Device locks during school and sleep hours
• Weekly parent review of usage reports

High School (Ages ~14–18)
• App limits instead of full bans
• Location sharing ON for safety
• Conversations tied to screen reports
• Gradual relaxation of limits with responsibility

Cyberbullying & Sexting Prevention Appendix (Android)

Reality Check
Most cyberbullying on Android happens through private messaging apps and social media DMs.
Screens remove empathy and increase impulsive behavior.

Key Android Protections
• App approval and blocking
• Time limits on messaging and social apps
• Location awareness
• Ongoing usage monitoring

Sexting and Legal Risks
• Images shared digitally are permanent
• Minors sharing explicit images can face serious consequences
• Forwarding images is never harmless

Parenting Principles That Work
• Devices are privileges, not rights
• Kids must feel safe reporting mistakes
• Focus on protection, not punishment

Parent–Child Digital Device Agreement (Android)

- This Android device is a privilege and may be restricted if misused.
- Parents retain access to the device, apps, and usage reports.
- The child will not attempt to bypass controls, reset the phone, or change passwords.
- No sharing of passwords or accounts with friends.
- No sending, requesting, saving, or forwarding explicit images.
- Cyberbullying or harassment is not tolerated.
- The child agrees to report unsafe situations immediately.
- Parents agree to prioritize safety over punishment.
- Rules will be reviewed and adjusted as responsibility is demonstrated.

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Child: _____ Date: _____