

Major Carriers: When comparing them, we assume you already have a plan and are comparing the cost of adding a line of service for your child.

These seem to be great options for the value-conscious mom looking for their child's first phone.

Worth considering, but not the lowest-cost plans.

Not our favorites.

These don't seem to be the best value or the ideal plans for a first-time cell phone user.

| CARRIER | DATA-FREE PLAN? | MONTHLY COST | ACTIVATION FEE | CONTRACT? | WI-FI FREE PHONE? | PHONE COST |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| Verizon | N | \$20 additional line | \$40 | Y | N | N/A |
| Sprint | N | \$25 additional line | \$30 | Y | N ## | \$96 |
| T-Mobile | N | \$30 additional line | \$25 | Y | N ## | \$75 |
| AT&T | N | \$40 additional line | \$30 | Y | N ## | \$50 |
| Tello | Y & | \$5 100 minutes talk + free text | 0 | N | Y | \$25 |
| Ting | Y & | \$6 and up based on usage | 0 | N | N ## | \$49 |
| Twigby | Y | \$9 | 0 | N | Y | \$21 |
| SpeedTalk | N | \$5 | 0 | N | N ^ | N/A |
| Republic Wireless | Y | \$15 + taxes/fees | 0 | N | N | N/A |
| US Mobile | Y | 5 + \$2 monthly service fee | 0 | N | Y | \$45 |
| Red Pocket | N | \$10 | 0 | N | N ^ | N/A |
| Consumer Cellular | Y \$ | \$15 talk only, \$20 with limited text/data | 0 | N | Y | \$30 |
| Mint Mobile | N | \$15 | 0 | N * | N | N/A |
| Lyca Mobile | N | \$19 (includes international talk & text) | 0 | N * | N | N/A |
| Google Fi | Y | \$20 + taxes/fees | 0 | N | N | N/A |
| AirVoice | N | \$20 | 0 | N | N ^ | N/A |
| PureTalk | N | \$20 | 0 | N | N ## | \$109.99 |
| H2O | N | \$20 | 0 | N | N | N/A |
| Total Wireless | Y | \$25 unlimited talk + text | 0 | N | N ## | FREE w/ plan |
| Cricket | Y | \$25 | 0 | N | Y | \$29.99 |
| Simple Mobile | N | \$25 | 0 | N | N ## | FREE w/ plan |
| US Cellular | N | \$30 | 0 | N | N ## | \$99.99 |
| Visible | N | \$40 (unlimited talk, data, text) | 0 | N | N | N/A |
| Metro | N | \$30 | \$15 | N | N ## | \$0 |
| BoostMobile | N | \$35 | 0 | N | Y | \$29.99 |
| Virgin | N | \$35 | 0 | N | Y | \$29.99 |
| Tracfone | N | \$19 (90-day service period) | 0 | N | N | FREE w/ plan |

* Some plans may require you to pre-purchase a few months.

No 100% data-free phone is available, but there is a flip phone that is cumbersome for web access compared to smartphones

^ This carrier does not sell devices at all. It is expected that you will purchase a phone elsewhere and use their SIM card.

& You will need to "build a custom plan" and turn off mobile data on your personal account

\$ Talk only; no text