Cell phones and Children
It’s about time they grew up

By William Moore

"Jessica's growing up so fast, but..."
"What's wrong?"
"It's, well, we're on the family plan. I wish I could explain that she's hogging most of our plan's minutes."
"Why not take her phone away?"
"Oh, I did once but she kept crying about it."
"Haven't you tried talking to your daughter about this?"
"I have but she doesn't understand."
"What do you mean?"
"Well, she's only ten months old. It's hard to communicate with her like that."
"...but, how does...I mean, her own cell phone?"
"I know, I felt so pressured watching all the other babies in our daycare having them. I just couldn't let her be left behind. You know how it is."

-A conversation between two mothers at a bench in D.C.

Back in my day, the best way to keep in touch and get business done was with two cans connected with a long thin piece of thread. Today the cans have been replaced with hundred-dollar cell-phones and the string substituted with an endless wireless network stretching from Earth to the relatively unknown planet of Aaodifsnopfinaspoisaio (the proper pronunciation can be found on your own time). The life of the child is no longer the fun and games that old timers think it used to be. With this raging new world of technology, the all-knowing Wikipedia, and blackberries replacing the need for PowerPoint, the time has come for our children to become the masters of their own destinies. It must start with or has started with the cell phone.

Some parents would question, “Kids shouldn’t have cell phones. Aren’t they growing up too fast?” To find the answer, I went undercover at Johnson and Johnson Elementary Tech in order to see if the new cell phone craze was valid, and let me say, I was convinced! Children need cell phones like Milk needed Nesquick. Without them, I can’t even imagine how they could get through their stressful, busy work days. I attended both the first and the sixth grades, and this is what I found.

While in the Mrs. Veechip’s class, I spoke to Jacqueline Waters, first grader, about the importance of her Verizon Samsung Envy phone. She told me it was the only link she had to her friends. Gone are the days of land lines and sleepovers; when she needs to get in touch, she calls her friends herself. Besides, I also found that she was recently elected to be in charge of crayon distribution throughout the class. And this job doesn’t mean you can just bring your own crayons from home. No sir. When a color runs out, Waters has to hit the CVS and make sure every color is accounted for before Art class. How does she know what colors to get when she drives away? You guessed it, her cell phone. As seen here:
“It’s not just a job” she told me, “It’s a struggle to get my peers prepared for coloring in the lines… Without my phone, I don’t know if I could coordinate all the necessary parts.”

“Kids nowadays have it easier than we ever did. By the time I was 10, I knew how to program my own phone and handle three-way calls” said Brian Johns when I told him about Jacqueline Waters. Brian, a sixth grader in Mr. Reginald’s class, is an avid cell phone user, and further exemplified the necessity of cell phones to be given to children. His parents were among the first to give into the cell-phone craze, 10 months before Brian was born, and at 12:00am on January 1, 1997, Brian became the first baby born with a blue-tooth headset fully operational on his head:

“Kids nowadays only care about the pictures and the text messaging. In my day, the cell-phone was only for emergencies” Brian said as he updated his two-year old twitter account. Brian was the first child in history to make a cross-Atlantic call to France while keeping Russia pinned waiting on his third line. Brian commented, “People say I’m special, but I say when you’re 12, it’s time to grow up.”
Both Jacqueline and Brian are under the age of 15, but can text faster than I can type. Several times during my interviews, they received calls with important information like: “Make sure you DVR Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles for me” from Brian’s younger brother and, “We’re going to play House after school” from Jacqueline’s friends. Compare that to the calls we adults get about meetings and deadlines; clearly we’re the ones not using our phones as efficiently as we could. So applause to the parents whose insights bade them to give cell-phones to their children. They truly have set them on the path to success!