bark

Digital safety for at-risk youth: Why Bark is a smarter solution

Why safe devices matter

Unmonitored smartphones can expose vulnerable youth to serious digital threats — from online grooming and sextortion to cyberbullying and suicidal ideation.

Organizations across the country are turning to Bark to help protect the families they serve.

Why organizations choose safer devices like the Bark Phone

✅ Builds **digital literacy** gradually, starting with limited access

👍 Encourages **healthy tech habits** and open conversations about online behavior

🚩 **Alerts trusted adults** to signs of danger, including violence, predation, and emotional distress

🎛 Adapts to each individual's needs, with **customizable settings** that allow them to grow over time

Case study

One nonprofit working with trafficking survivors uncovered major risks tied to iPhone access — including re-contact from traffickers through encrypted apps. They switched to Bark to better align with their mission and safeguard residents. **Read the full case study ↗**

How Bark works in practice

Here's what caregivers and staff can expect from the Bark Phone's day-to-day functionality:

→ Tamper-proof controls that prevent common workarounds

→ Call and text management so you can limit access to only trusted contacts

→ Location tracking to help ensure youth safety and support accountability

Where can I find funding for safe devices?

You may already qualify! Some organizations build Bark into their program budgets. Others access local or state funding. In select states, Bark is Medicaid-approved (ask us if your state is included).

Staying informed: resources for professionals

Technology evolves quickly, and predators adapt just as fast. The best protection? Staying educated and fostering trust with the youth in your care. Here are a few essential tools:

Bark's 2024 annual report ↗
A must-read snapshot of current trends: popular apps, mental health risks, and hidden threats.

AI + sextortion awareness ↗
Deepfakes and AI-generated threats are rising. Learn what to watch for and how to respond.

Platform-specific guides ↗
From Roblox to Snapchat, we break down red flags by platform.

Digital resilience guide ↗
Support for helping youth recover after online harm like cyberbullying, harassment, or exploitation.

Join the conversation ↗
Bark's Parenting in a Tech World Facebook group has 600k+ members, including professionals, caregivers, and concerned parents — a great space for questions and peer support.

Let's partner to protect youth

Bark offers customizable safety tools to meet your mission, your youth, and your program's needs — whether you're supporting survivors, building life skills, or navigating re-entry.

Contact sales@bark.us ↗ for more information and to get started.