Verizon Smart Family

What is it?
Smart Family is a service provided by Verizon to help parents manage their child’s phone use through parental controls and monitoring capabilities. The service is available on Android and Apple devices and can be added to an existing Verizon plan. The Smart Family services is included with the Just Kids wireless plan, which provides kids with 5 GB of data and unlimited talk and text to twenty parent-approved contacts.

The benefits to parents
Verizon Smart Family aims to give parents peace of mind knowing that their children are using their smartphone safely and responsibly. The service allows monitoring of web, app, calling and texting activity, as well as the ability to set purchase limits at the app store. These features allow parents to see who is contacting their child and to understand how the child is using their phone. The time limit restriction allows parents to guarantee screen-free time during set periods, and only allows an approved list of contacts to contact the device during the restriction.

Highlighted features
1. Location
Parents are able to see their child’s location using Smart Family. The Smart Family Companion app is able to track your child with a more accurate location and parents will also be able to set up alerts that notify when the child has reached a certain destination. Children are also able to send parents their location using a check-in button.

2. Pause the Internet
Smart Family allows parents to pause Internet access to their child’s phone whether they are using the home network or elsewhere. This function is available both when the phone is using a Wi-Fi connection or mobile data.

3. Content filters
Smart Family allows parents to filter the content that their child is able to view on their phone. Parents can set filters to block inappropriate apps and websites and to make sure only age appropriate materials are available. The service also allows individual websites to be manually blocked.

Where can I learn more?
verizonwireless.com/smartfamily
verizonwireless.com/solutions-and-services/just-kids

For more information:
fosi.org/parenting