

# How games apps work

Pia and Erik are both 12 years old and have just gotten their first smartphone. So of course they absolutely must test the newest games apps ...



## Games apps can do a lot!

Good games apps are fun. Used correctly, they can also help kids build their skills, like e.g.:



## But: Games apps never sleep!

Apps are up all the time, day and night, and also when it's not the right time: Erik wakes up at three o'clock in the night, because a game app sends a message to his phone.



What if books did the same thing?



## Therefore: Disable ring tones!

Many games try to get the user's attention with messages and ring tones to bring them back into the game. So it's best to just turn off this function, so that the game cannot decide when it's time to play.

Game notifications should definitely not be heard:

- while studying
- while reading
- while eating
- while sleeping
- while riding a bike



When else do games apps really get annoying?

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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## Beware: Apps make money!

To draw attention to games, some manufacturers offer apps for free for a while. That's so the game gets popular. Once the sale is over though, Erik and Pia will probably be ready to invest one or two euros.

1. Pia sees that the app Lusaville is free, right now, today only.
2. The next day Pia tells Erik about the great new app.
3. Too late! Erik wants to download the game, but now it costs money.

**Think carefully about how much you want to spend on an app!**

## Tip: Come to an agreement!

To get the best out of games apps, parents should make clear agreements with their children. Together, you should set a fixed budget and clear use times.



## Apps, safe bet!



**Database of the German Youth Institute**  
Database for children apps with detailed reviews and quality assessments  
[www.datenbank-apps-fuer-kinder.de](http://www.datenbank-apps-fuer-kinder.de)



**fragFinn-App**  
Kids browser for surfing on sites tested for media education  
[www.fragfinn.de](http://www.fragfinn.de)



**klick-tipps.net**  
Continuously updated recommendations for good kids apps  
[www.klick-tipps.net/kinderapps/](http://www.klick-tipps.net/kinderapps/)



**juuport.de**  
Young people advise young people on problems on the web and in social networks.  
[www.juuport.de](http://www.juuport.de)