

# AI Literacy Toolkit Empowering Families To Explore AI Together



## Toolkit Overview

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is shaping our children's world, from the videos they watch to the tools they use in school. This toolkit is designed to help families and educators have thoughtful, age-appropriate conversations about AI and build the skills kids need to navigate an increasingly digital world.

## The Purpose of This Toolkit

- Support families in having honest, curiosity-driven conversations about AI.
- Offer activities and ideas that introduce AI concepts through play, creativity, and reflection.
- Equip schools and educators with communication tools and strategies to introduce AI in inclusive, age-appropriate ways.
- Encourage responsible, ethical, and equitable use of AI among young learners.

Whether you're a parent of a curious kindergartner or a school leader planning community outreach, this toolkit offers something for everyone.

**Let's explore the future - together!**



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# Activity Guide for Parents Talking to Your Kids About AI

## Why AI Matters For Your Child

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is everywhere - from YouTube recommendations to virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa. Understanding how AI works can help us guide our kids in using technology wisely. This activity guide offers simple, hands-on ways to explore AI concepts with your child, sparking meaningful conversations along the way.



## How To Use This Guide

1. **Watch the [video](#).**
2. **Use the cards** to engage your child in discussions related to AI. Check out the possible answers for your reference.
3. **Try the activities.**
4. **Plan for tech use as a family!**

## Tips for Parents and Caregivers

- ✓ There are no right or wrong answers - allow kids to share their thoughts freely.
- ✓ Share your answers too! Kids appreciate hearing what adults think.
- ✓ Use the vocabulary in the guide to explain tricky words like “bias” or “algorithm.”
- ✓ Encourage follow-up questions like “What makes you say that?” or “Can you tell me more?”
- ✓ You don’t have to go in order—pick questions that match your child’s interests.



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# How To Use The Conversation Cards



## What are the Conversation Cards?

These cards are designed to spark fun, thoughtful conversations about artificial intelligence (AI) with your child. Each card includes a question that invites curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity. You'll also find example responses to help guide or extend the discussion.

### Goal

These cards aren't about teaching AI, but about discussing it. The goal is to build understanding together and make space for thoughtful conversation about how technology fits into your child's life.

## Why use them?

Discussing AI now helps children become more thoughtful and responsible users of technology.



## When And Where To Use Them

- During meal times
- While commuting or waiting
- As a bedtime reflection
- On a walk or a tech-free moment
- Even in group settings like family game night



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# Conversation Cards

1. When do you use AI in your daily life?



2. AI can learn from data. What do you think that means?



3. Have you ever noticed that an app seems to "know" what you like?



4. Have you ever used AI to create something, such as text, pictures, or music?



5. Would you trust a self-driving car to take you somewhere? Why or why not?



6. Can AI be creative like humans?



# Conversation Cards

7. Can AI make mistakes?  
Have you ever seen AI  
make a mistake?



8. Do you think AI can  
have feelings?  
Why or why not?



9. How do you think AI will  
change jobs in the  
future?



10. Is AI always fair?  
How can AI be biased?



11. What's the coolest  
thing AI can do?



12. What do you think AI  
will be able to do in 10  
years?





# Possible Conversation Card Responses

## Conversation Card 1: AI in Everyday Life

**Question:** When do you think you will use AI daily?

**Possible Responses:**

- "When I ask Siri or Alexa a question."
- "When I scroll through TikTok or YouTube, it shows me videos I might like."

## Conversation Card 2: AI and Learning

**Question:** AI can learn from data. What do you think that means?

**Possible Responses:**

- "AI looks at many examples and figures out patterns, like how my favorite apps know what I like."
- "It remembers what people do online and uses that to guess what we want."

## Conversation Card 3: AI Predictions

**Question:** Have you ever noticed that an app seems to "know" what you like?

**Possible Responses:**

- "Yes! YouTube always recommends videos about my favorite game."
- "Netflix suggests movies I'd probably enjoy, and they're usually right!"
- "It's weird when ads pop up for something I just talked about."

## Conversation Card 4: Generative AI

**Question:** Have you ever used AI to create something (text, pictures, music)?

**Possible Responses:**

- "I asked ChatGPT to write a funny story for me!"
- "I used an AI app to turn my picture into a cartoon."
- "I played with an AI music generator, and it made a song that sounded good."

## Conversation Card 5: AI and Decision-Making

**Question:** Would you trust a self-driving car to take you somewhere? Why or why not?

**Possible Responses:**

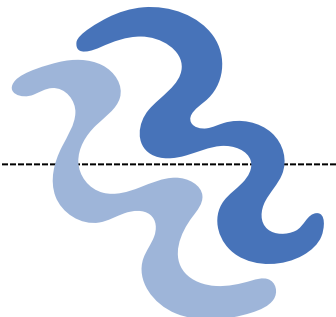
- "Maybe if it's super safe, but I'd still want a steering wheel just in case!"
- "No, because what if it glitches or doesn't see a person crossing the street?"
- "Yes! AI might drive better than some people."

## Conversation Card 6: AI and Creativity

**Question:** Can AI be creative like humans?

**Possible Responses:**

- "No, because it doesn't have feelings or original ideas."
- "Maybe... it can mix things together in new ways, but it doesn't think like we do."
- "Yes! AI-generated music and art are really cool, even if a human had to help."





# Possible Conversation Card Responses

## **Conversation Card 7: AI and Mistakes**

**Question:** Can AI make mistakes? Have you ever seen AI get something wrong?

**Possible Responses:**

- "Yes! My autocorrect makes hilarious mistakes all the time."
  - "I saw AI give a wrong answer when I asked it a question."
  - "AI isn't perfect—it only knows what people teach it, and people can be wrong too!"
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## **Conversation Card 8: AI and Feelings**

**Question:** Do you think AI can have feelings? Why or why not?

**Possible Responses:**

- "No, because it's just a program—it doesn't feel happy or sad."
  - "AI can pretend to have emotions, but it's not real."
  - "What if AI thinks it has feelings because it learns from humans?"
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## **Conversation Card 9: AI and Human Jobs**

**Question:** How do you think AI will change jobs in the future?

**Possible Responses:**

- "Some jobs might disappear, like cashiers or drivers."
  - "AI might help doctors by spotting diseases early."
  - "I think people will still have jobs, but they'll work with AI instead of being replaced."
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## **Conversation Card 10: AI and Fairness**

**Question:** Is AI always fair? How can AI be biased?

**Possible Responses:**

- "AI can be unfair if it learns from bad or biased data."
  - "If AI is trained mostly on one group of people's experiences, it might not work well for others."
  - "We have to teach AI to be fair, just like we teach people."
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## **Conversation Card 11: AI and Fun!**

**Question:** What's the coolest thing AI can do?

**Possible Responses:**

- "I love AI-generated artwork—it's so creative!"
  - "AI in video games makes characters smarter."
  - "I think it's awesome that AI can talk to you like a real person!"
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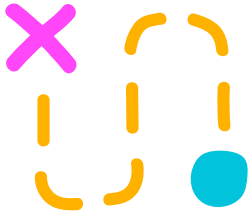
## **Conversation Card 12: AI in the Future**

**Question:** What do you think AI will be able to do in 10 years?

**Possible Responses:**

- "Maybe robots will do all the house chores!"
- "AI will be in schools, helping students with learning."
- "I hope AI doesn't take over everything—we still need people!"

# Activity Ideas



## Activity 1: AI Scavenger Hunt

Look around your home and find five examples of AI in action.

Write or draw these examples together and discuss how AI makes decisions.



**Parent Tip:** Explain that AI learns from patterns in data. **For example,** Netflix suggests shows based on what you've watched before.

**Ask:** "Do you think AI always gets it right?"

## Activity 2: AI & Creativity

Have your child draw a dream world (e.g., "a castle in space with a dragon and robots"). Use an AI tool like ChatGPT to generate an AI-created version of the same prompt.

Compare the two images.



**Parent Tip:** Explain that AI doesn't have original ideas—it mixes and matches things from data it has learned.

# Activity Ideas 1 & 2, Step by Step Instructions

## 1. AI Scavenger Hunt

**Objective:** Make AI visible and understandable in your child's everyday environment.

### Step-by-Step:

Walk around your home and find 5 examples of AI in action.

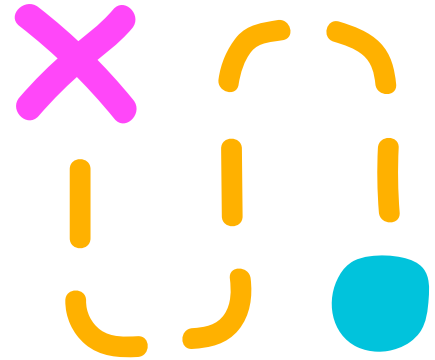
### Look for:

- Smart speakers (Alexa or Siri)
- Recommendation systems (YouTube, Netflix, Spotify)
- Smart appliances or toys

### Ask your child:

- What does this device or app do?
- How do you think it decides what to show or say?

**Talking Point:** Explain that AI learns from our behavior (e.g., what we click, watch, or say) to make decisions. Sometimes it's right—and sometimes not!



## 2. AI and Creativity

**Objective:** Help your child compare human-created art with AI-generated content.

Materials Needed: Paper and drawing tools, Internet access, an AI image generator like ChatGPT.

### Step-by-Step:

1. Ask your child to draw a picture of a fantasy world (e.g., "a castle in space with a dragon and robots").
2. Open an AI art tool and type in the same prompt your child used.
3. **Compare the two images. Ask:**
  - What's different between your drawing and the AI's?
  - Which one feels more creative or personal? Why?
  - Do you think AI understands what it's drawing?



**Talking Point:** AI creates by combining patterns it has learned from existing images. It doesn't have ideas or feelings like we do.

# Activity Ideas

## Activity 3: AI and Predictions

Below are two snapshots of the same user's "Explore page" on a popular social media app. Can you spot the difference and what may have caused the before and after to appear this way?

Before



After



**Parent Tip:** Remind kids that AI learns from what they click on, so thinking before clicking is essential. Encourage media balance by discussing, "Do you think AI should always decide what we see?"

## Activity 4: AI Guessing Game

Think of an animal and let your child ask "yes" or "no" questions to figure it out. After 5-7 questions, see if they can guess correctly.

Explain that AI works similarly - it learns from data and improves over time.



**Parent Tip:** Discuss how AI improves with more data, but it can also be biased if it doesn't have diverse information.



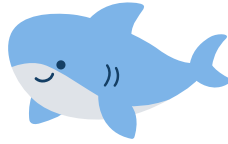
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# Activity Ideas 3 & 4, Step by Step Instructions

## 3. AI and Predictions



### Objective:

Help your child understand how AI uses their online behavior (such as clicks and views) to shape what they see, especially on platforms like social media or streaming apps (YouTube, Netflix, Hulu).

### Step-by-Step:

- Point out that these are two versions of the same user's page, just before and after they used the app.
- **Ask:** "What differences do you notice between the Before and After?" Encourage them to describe the types of images they see in each, such as sports, sharks, and animals vs. cakes and colorful treats.
- **Ask:** "Do you think the user chose to change what they see or did the AI decide?"
- **Ask:** "Why do you think it changed?" Guide your child to think about how clicking or spending time on certain content can affect what the AI shows in the future.
- **Ask:** "What could go wrong if the AI only shows you one type of content?"

### Talking Point:

AI systems like recommendation algorithms can be helpful, but they can also limit our view of the world if we're not careful. AI is powerful, but we need to stay thoughtful and aware of how it shapes our choices.

## 4. AI Guessing Game

**Objective:** Help your child understand how AI asks questions and learns from data.

### Step-by-Step:

- Think of an animal (but don't say it).
- Let your child ask yes/no questions to figure it out (e.g., "Does it live in the ocean?").
- After 5–7 questions, let them guess.
- Switch roles and let your child choose the animal.



**Talking Point:** This is similar to how AI works in that it collects data, makes guesses, and gets better with more information. But if the data is limited or biased, its answers might not be right or fair.



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# Activity Ideas



## Activity 5: AI & Art

Use an AI art or writing tool (like ChatGPT or SUNO for music). Then, have them critique: Is the result creative? How is it different from human creativity?



**Parent Tip:** Encourage your child to think like a critic and a creator. Ask them what they like or don't like about the AI's output and how it compares to something a person might make. Remind them that creativity isn't just about the final product but also the ideas, emotions, and intentions behind it.



## Activity 6: AI & Problem Solving

Design a concept for an AI product that could help solve a real-world problem (climate change, accessibility, mental health).



**Parent Tip:** Help your child think about real challenges in your community or daily life, and then ask, "How could AI help with that?" Encourage them to dream big, but also consider what information the AI would need and what the potential risks might be.

# Activity Ideas 5 & 6, Step-by-Step Instructions

## 5. AI & Art

**Objective:** Explore what creativity means and how AI compares to human ideas.

**Materials Needed:** AI writing or art tool (e.g., ChatGPT or SUNO for music).

### Step-by-Step:

1. Use an AI tool to generate something creative (a poem, image, or song).
2. Review the result with your child. Ask:
  - What do you think of what the AI made?
  - Does it feel creative? Why or why not?
  - How is it different from something a person would make?



**Talking Point:** Creativity involves emotion, experience, and intention. These are things AI doesn't have. But it can still make interesting things by remixing ideas it has learned.

## 6. AI and Problem Solving

**Objective:** Encourage your child to imagine AI as a tool for helping people and solving problems.

**Materials Needed:** Paper and pencil or a digital drawing/note app.

### Step-by-Step:

- Talk about a real-world problem your child cares about (e.g., climate change, disabilities, mental health).
- Ask: "How could AI help with that?"
- Design a product or app that uses AI to solve the problem.

### Discuss:

- What kind of data would this AI need?
- What could go wrong if the AI isn't trained well?
- How would it help people?



**Talking Point:** AI can support big ideas, but it also comes with responsibilities, and humans still need to make thoughtful decisions about how it's used.

# Family Tech Planners

## What is a Family Tech Planner?

The Family Tech Planner from Common Sense Media is a simple, practical guide to help families set healthy guidelines for children's interactions with AI-powered tools and devices.

### The Planner Allows You To:

Decide which AI-powered devices and apps are okay to use (voice assistants, recommendation algorithms on YouTube Kids, educational AI apps, chatbots).



Agree on where and when AI tools can be used (e.g., not during meals or bedtime).



Balance AI-based tech use with creative play, outdoor time, and human interactions.



Remind children that AI does not replace caregivers, teachers, or friends.

You can view age-appropriate, printable tech planners here:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/family-tech-planners>

# Glossary

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: It's a program made by people that makes computers do things that seem intelligent (or smart) in the same way that humans are intelligent.

**Algorithm**: A set of rules or steps a computer follows to solve a problem or make a decision.

**Bias**: When an AI system makes unfair decisions because it learned from unbalanced or incomplete data.

**Data**: Information that AI uses to learn-like what videos you watch or what words you say.

**Generative AI**: AI that can create things like images, music, or stories.

**Machine Learning**: A way for AI to improve over time by learning from data.

**Pattern Recognition**: AI's ability to find similarities or trends in data.

**Recommendation Program**: When a system tailors what you see based on your behavior, such as recommending videos that you are likely to watch.

# AI Literacy Toolkit Empowering Families To Explore AI Together

## About Day of AI

Day of AI is an MIT-founded initiative dedicated to helping K-12 students and educators thrive in the era of artificial intelligence. It has since evolved into a stand-alone not-for-profit entity that collaborates with MIT researchers to provide curricula and professional development programs, enabling students and teachers to deepen their understanding of how AI works and its ethical implications. Our mission is to equip educators with the knowledge and tools to integrate AI responsibly into their classrooms, fostering critical thinking skills and AI literacy among students.

Learn more at: [dayofai.org](https://dayofai.org)

## About Common Sense Media and Common Sense Education

Common Sense Media is a trusted nonprofit that provides research-backed reviews, resources, and guidance to help families navigate media and technology. Their work empowers parents, caregivers, and educators to make informed decisions about digital tools and platforms, promoting safe, ethical, and inclusive use of technology for children of all ages.

Explore more at: [commonsensemedia.org](https://commonsensemedia.org)