

# The role AI can play in helping children thrive



How children learn at home and in the classroom is constantly changing thanks to the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and products like ChatGPT. As a parent, it's natural to be concerned about the potential drawbacks of these changes, but it's equally important to recognise the opportunities they bring to the table.

## Where and how do children encounter AI?

Believe it or not, your child is probably exposed to AI on a regular or daily basis without you even thinking about it – it's not a new technology and has been around and developing since the 1960s. When you ask Siri or a Google Assistant to help you out, you're using AI. But the way it is part of everyday life does make for a new world that our kids are developing within and the forms of AI they are encountering can be found in interesting places.

The specific technology that children use at school – known as Edtech, often uses adaptive learning – a form of AI. However, generative AI, such as writing tools that can make complete essays from basic prompts (like ChatGPT and Bard), has presented new challenges, especially in classrooms. While we're familiar with predictive text in programs like text messaging, having a program generate a whole piece of writing from simple questions or requests is quite new.

## The good stuff

AI in education can be exciting! It can make learning personal, adapting to each child's strengths. AI tools can figure out how a child learns best, adjusting lessons to help them understand better. This keeps kids from falling behind and makes learning inclusive for everyone. ChatGPT and similar tools make learning fun and interactive, offering instant feedback and helping children explore what interests them. Using these tools can improve communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

## The things you might be worried about

While AI has benefits, parents should know about the downsides. Cheating is a worry, but talking to children about honesty and ethical tech use can help. Another concern is misinformation, but teaching children to question and fact-check information can counter this. Encouraging a healthy scepticism while instilling a love for learning ensures that children approach AI-generated content with a critical eye.

Parents should also ensure that AI supports traditional learning and doesn't hinder academic progress.

## The ways parents can help

You can play a vital role in guiding your children to use AI wisely. You should explain that not all AI-generated content is accurate and show that relying on it for schoolwork might lead to

mistakes. While doing this, don't forget to get them excited about the tech and explore how they could use the tools in a way that could kick-start further research and exploration.

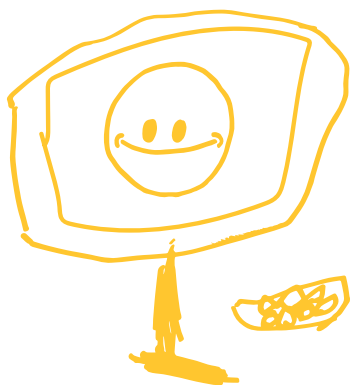
Staying involved in your child's education and talking to teachers can help you to monitor AI's impact. Regular communication with teachers ensures that both home and school are providing effective learning environments.

By embracing the good parts, dealing with risks, and staying involved, parents can help kids thrive in a world influenced by AI. The key lies in fostering a healthy relationship with technology, instilling values of integrity and curiosity, and actively participating in your children's educational journey.

## Start the conversation and keep it going every day!

So that you can start having conversations with your children that encourage the behaviours that will help them to thrive, we have developed some easy conversation starter prompts. Explore these and have a chat today!

These conversation starters aim to encourage open dialogue between parents and children, fostering a deeper understanding of the role of AI in education, how it can be harnessed positively, and the role that parents play in this at home.



## Key takeaways:

1. AI is everywhere: Children encounter AI every day, like when they talk to Siri or use Google Assistant. It's not new, but it's changing how they learn at home and school.
2. Good things about AI in school: AI in education is cool! It makes learning personal and adapts to how each child learns. Tools like ChatGPT make learning fun and interactive, helping children explore what interests them. This helps everyone learn better and prevents children from falling behind.
3. Generative AI challenges: Some AI tools, like ones that write essays, bring new problems, like cheating and misinformation. Parents should talk to children about being honest and checking info. Teach them to question things and think for themselves.
4. Parents' role in guiding AI use: Parents can help children use AI wisely. Explain that not all AI-made content is accurate, and relying on it for schoolwork can lead to mistakes. Encourage curiosity and explore tech together. Stay involved in their education and talk to teachers.
5. Communication and involvement: Parents should talk to teachers and stay involved in what children are doing with AI. Regular chats help make sure home and school are both helping children learn. By focusing on the good parts, addressing risks, and staying engaged, parents can help children thrive in a world with AI.