Family Guide to AI

A conversation guide to help you and your family get started with AI

> *Generative AI can spark creativity and enhance learning. This guide is designed to help you have a conversation with your child, so they can maximize the positive possibilities of AI for themselves (and maybe you!). It provides the basics on what AI is and how it works, so your family can make thoughtful choices and learn to use it responsibly, together.*

1. Introducing AI, your smart helper

AI is already all around you. In fact, you probably use it every day and don't even know it. Does your family have a smart speaker that plays your favorite songs when you ask? That's AI! Does your tablet help you spell words? Does your TV recommend shows to watch? AI again! It even helps your grown-ups find the best way to drive somewhere using the map app in the car.

AI is like having a learning machine that helps you discover new things! For example, if you have a question, like 'Why is the sky blue?' or 'How long did dinosaurs live?', AI can help find the answers.

2. AI isn't human, it's just really good at finding patterns

AI is not a human, it's just a really smart computer program that's good at finding patterns. Imagine you have a bunch of blocks: green, pink, green, pink. What comes next? Green! AI does something similar but with way more information.
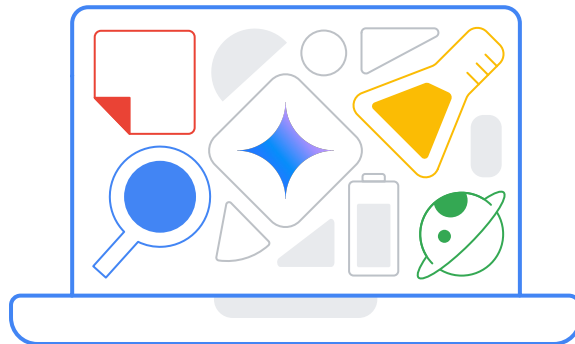
AI learns by receiving a huge amount of information called "training data." This data can be pictures, words, videos, even sounds. AI looks for patterns in this data. For example, if it sees lots of pictures of cats with pointy ears and whiskers, it learns that those are common traits of cats. AI will use these patterns to make predictions. If you ask AI to describe a cat, it will write a description using these traits. This is how it can do things like write a story or draw a picture. It's predicting what word, color, or note should come next, based on all the patterns it has learned.

3. AI can make mistakes; put on your thinking cap!

AI is smart, but it can still make mistakes. It doesn't always know when it's wrong, so it might give you an answer that isn't true or not what you expected. For example, it might tell you that the word 'strawberry' has two R's in it, even though we know it has three. Or if you ask for information about bats, it might tell you about the type used in baseball when you were looking for information about those winged animals that live in caves.

This is why wearing your thinking cap is important! You should always double-check if what AI tells you is right. You can ask a trusted grown-up or teacher, look it up in a book or do more research on a website you trust.

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4. Let AI supercharge your ideas, not replace them

AI is like a super-powered tool that can help you do amazing things, like a tutor that is there to help explain a math concept or paint brushes that mix colors for you. AI can help you, but it shouldn't do all the work. You still need to use your own brain, skills, and creativity!

Here are just a few of the cool things you can do with AI:

- **Story helper:** Use AI to get ideas for a story, then *you* write an awesome adventure!
- **Learning coach:** If you're learning about something tricky (like dinosaurs), AI can help explain it in a simple way. Then, you can understand even more of what you see in books or videos.
- **Art explorer:** You can use AI to discover different art styles, then you can create your *own* amazing drawings and paintings.

5. Smart AI use means being safe and responsible

As with any technology, using it safely and responsibly is the key to success. Never enter private information, such as your phone number or home address, into AI. If you're not sure, ask yourself if you'd share it with a stranger or ask a grown-up you trust. You should also ask a trusted grown-up if you ever see something online that makes you feel confused or scared, or if AI says something that doesn't seem right.

Looking for more?

Level up your own AI skills:

- [Getting started with Gemini](#)
- [Learn about generative AI](#)
- [Guardian's Guide to AI](#)

Explore general online safety with your kids:

- [Be Internet Awesome Family Guide](#)
- [Play Interland - Be Internet Awesome](#)

Additional AI skilling and exploration for the Family:

- [Explore image prompting](#)
- [Learn AI Basics with Experience AI](#)

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