

# RESPONSIBLE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN NIGERIAN SCHOOLS

## ENHANCED GUIDE: RESPONSIBLE USE OF GENERATIVE AI IN NIGERIAN SCHOOLS

A Practical Guide for Parents and Learners Adapting for Africa, Relevant to the World

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Lead Author: Gideon Olanrewaju, Founding Principal Partner

Editorial Team: Praise Adebisi, Research Practise Lead Omoniyi Lawson, Managing Partner

Design and Layout by Ayomikun Dada, Visual Communications Specialist

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## INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing how we live, learn, and work. In Nigerian schools and homes, many children are now using AI tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and others to do homework, explain topics, write stories or create study notes.

Generative AI means computer tools that can create new things like text, pictures, or sounds. The emergence of AI marks the beginning of when people started using these tools in everyday life, starting with adults and now children. These tools became popular around 2022 and have quickly spread across schools and homes around the world.

While these tools can be helpful, they also bring some risks. Parents worry about too much screen time, short attention span, wrong information, data privacy, and children becoming overly dependent on Al. You may ask: Is Al safe for my child? How can I help them use it wisely? This guide is developed to help Nigerian parents understand Al and support their children in using it the right way. It gives simple tips, real-life examples, and advice that fit our local reality.

This guide will help you:

- Understand what generative AI is and how it affects your child.
- Talk to your child about the safe and wise use of Al tools.
- Set simple rules and limits for Al use at home.
- Check the kind of AI content your child is using or creating.
- Guide your child to think critically and not believe everything Al says.
- · Protect your child's data and privacy when they use Al.
- · Work with teachers to support your child's learning with Al.

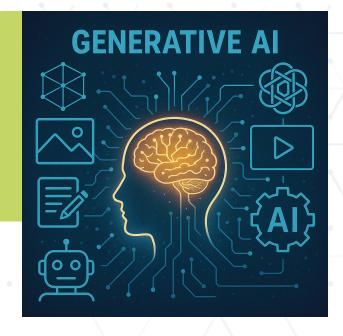
The goal is to help parents and schools work together so that children use Al as a tool for learning, not as a replacement for thinking, asking questions, or connecting with real people.

## WHAT IS GENERATIVE AI

Generative AI (GenAI) is a subfield of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that focuses on creating models capable of generating new content based on learned patterns from existing data. Unlike traditional AI systems, which are typically designed to perform specific tasks or follow predefined rules, generative AI goes beyond these limitations by emulating human creativity. It has the ability to create text, images, music, video, and other forms of media from scratch or modify existing material in novel ways.

At its core, generative AI relies on machine learning techniques such as deep learning and neural networks. These models are trained on large datasets containing vast amounts of information (e.g., books, images, songs, or articles). When identifying and understanding patterns within this data, the model learns the structure and relationships that exist within the content.

Once trained, a generative AI system can generate outputs that resemble or expand on the original data it was exposed to. For example, a language model can generate human-like text, while an image generation model can produce entirely new visual compositions based on prompts.



The strength of generative Al lies in its ability to generate highly complex and diverse content, which is indistinguishable from human-created work in many cases.

Generative AI has a wide range of applications in multiple fields. In education, it can assist with content creation, tutoring, and personalised learning experiences, enabling educators to create tailored materials for students. It is also a valuable tool for creativity, allowing artists, designers, and writers to experiment and produce innovative works.

However, the responsible use of generative Al is crucial, as it carries potential risks related to bias, misinformation, and copyright infringement.

In essence, generative AI represents a powerful leap forward in the ability of machines to not just replicate but also innovate, acting as a versatile tool for both creativity and problem-solving.

## TYPES OF GENERATIVE AI

Generative AI tools are a category of artificial intelligence systems that have the ability to create new content, ranging from text and images to audio. These tools function by learning patterns from large datasets and generating outputs that mimic or extend the data they have been trained on. The content produced can be highly diverse, offering unique opportunities for individuals and organisations in education, entertainment, design, and more. The primary types of generative AI are text-based, image-based, and audio-based tools, each serving distinct yet often complementary purposes.

- 1. Text-based generative Al tools, such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini, are designed to produce written content that resembles human writing. These models are trained on vast amounts of textual data, enabling them to generate coherent and contextually appropriate responses based on the input they receive. They can assist with a variety of tasks, from explaining complex topics and offering detailed answers to generating creative works like essays, reports, or stories. For students, these tools provide valuable support, acting as study companions that can help with homework, clarify difficult concepts, or even offer suggestions for improving writing. Their ability to produce text that is grammatically correct and contextually relevant makes them indispensable for academic purposes, particularly when used with well-constructed prompts. In addition, they allow educators to create tailored learning materials and assist in grading by automating routine tasks.
- 2. Image-based generative AI tools, such as DALL-E, have gained significant popularity for their ability to create images and designs from textual descriptions. Through training on enormous datasets of visual information, these tools can generate high-quality images based on the details provided by users. The process allows for a wide range of creative possibilities, whether it is designing a logo, producing illustrations for school projects, or creating visual content for websites and marketing materials. Students, for instance, can provide a description of a scene or object they need for an academic project, and the tool will generate the corresponding image, saving time and fostering creativity. The ability to create custom visuals from scratch means that educators and students alike can experiment with new ways of presenting information, enhancing learning through visual aids and creative representations of complex ideas. In addition, image-based generative AI plays a significant role in the design and entertainment industries, enabling rapid prototyping and ideation.

**3. Audio-based generative AI tools,** such as Suno AI, focus on the creation of music, sound effects, and even synthetic voices. These tools are capable of generating realistic and unique audio content based on user input, whether it is creating ambient music for background sound, generating realistic voices for virtual assistants or podcasts, or producing sound effects for video projects. The use of generative AI in audio allows for the production of high-quality soundscapes and music that can enhance learning environments, particularly for students who benefit from auditory stimuli. For example, these tools can generate calming background music to improve focus during study sessions or provide thematic soundtracks for educational videos. Audio-based generative AI also plays an essential role in the entertainment industry, from creating jingles and sound effects to generating realistic voiceovers for animated characters or video games. The ability to create custom audio content quickly and cost-effectively offers significant potential for both professionals and hobbyists in the creative fields.

Each type of generative AI text, image, and audio offers unique capabilities, but together, they enable a broad spectrum of creative possibilities. These tools not only enhance productivity and creativity in various fields but also transform how we approach content creation, learning, and interaction. Whether used in education to support learning, in design to speed up prototyping, or in entertainment to generate novel audio and visual experiences, generative AI is rapidly changing the landscape of creative work. However, as with all powerful tools, it is essential to use them responsibly, ensuring they are applied ethically and with consideration for potential risks such as bias, misinformation, and copyright concerns. When used thoughtfully, generative AI can be a transformative force in multiple industries, driving innovation and expanding the boundaries of human creativity.

## **APPLICATIONS OF AI IN LEARNING**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quietly transforming the landscape of education, offering new tools and methods to make learning more engaging, personalised, and accessible. In everyday learning, many students already interact with AI without fully realising it. Whether preparing for national examinations like WAEC or JAMB, searching for answers via WhatsApp, or watching explainer videos on YouTube, AI is embedded in the digital platforms learners frequently use. These technologies enhance the learning experience by providing immediate responses, tailored explanations, and interactive resources. However, it is important to recognise that AI is not a replacement for teachers. Rather, it complements and amplifies the efforts of teachers by providing support, scaffolding, and personalised reinforcement for students.

In Nigeria, several local innovations are leveraging AI to support learners across different socio-economic backgrounds. One such initiative is Scholarship.ng, an AI-powered study companion designed specifically to assist students preparing for high-stakes examinations like JAMB and WAEC.

The platform provides curated practice questions and uses AI to analyse responses, offering personalised feedback based on the learner's strengths and weaknesses. This form of adaptive learning enables students to focus on areas where they need improvement, essentially functioning like a smart tutor that evolves with their learning progress.

Another promising development is the **Eko Innovation Centre** in Lagos, which organises hands-on workshops and training sessions that introduce young learners to Al tools and their practical applications. Through these engagements, students not only gain technical skills but also cultivate problem-solving abilities and digital confidence. These experiences bridge the gap between traditional classroom learning and the skills required in a technology-driven world, nurturing a new generation of tech-savvy students who can creatively use Al for their personal and academic growth.

**uLesson,** a widely-used edtech platform, addresses the challenge of limited internet access—a common barrier for many students in Nigeria. The app allows students to download educational videos using minimal data. Some of the platform's features are powered by AI, enabling it to offer personalised learning experiences. For example, the system can recommend lessons based on a student's performance and learning habits, allowing learners to study at their own pace even when offline. This kind of low-data, adaptive technology plays a crucial role in democratising access to quality education, especially in underserved regions.

A real-life example of AI in practice is **Ada's** experience, a secondary school student in Lagos who used ChatGPT to draft an essay in Yoruba. While the AI helped her organise her thoughts and structure her writing, some of the Yoruba proverbs it suggested were culturally inaccurate. Ada then consulted her teacher, who corrected the proverbs and enriched the essay's relevance and authenticity. This case illustrates how AI can serve as a useful first step in the learning process, but also underscores the importance of human oversight, especially in culturally nuanced or context-specific areas of study.

Overall, the integration of AI into learning processes both globally and within Nigeria offers vast potential. When implemented thoughtfully and ethically, AI tools can enhance educational access, support differentiated learning, and empower both students and teachers. However, it remains critical to ensure that learners are equipped not just with access to AI tools but also with the digital literacy needed to use them responsibly and effectively.

## "Don't let AI do the thinking, let it help you think better."- Tolu

Al is a helpful learning tool, but should not replace critical thinking. It is important to use it wisely and responsibly. It is just like using a calculator does not eliminate the need to understand arithmetic, using Al should not hinder creativity or independent thought.

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Parents play a crucial role in supporting the responsible use of GenAl in their children's education. While sources do not provide an exhaustive list of actions for parents, they highlight their importance as stakeholders and participants in the conversation about Al in education.

## Parents can contribute by:

- Staying Informed: Aim to understand what GenAl is and how it is being used in schools and society.
- **Engaging in Dialogue:** Participate in discussions with schools, educators, and their children about the opportunities and risks of GenAl. Share concerns and provide feedback.
- **Encouraging Critical Thinking:** Help children understand that Al outputs need critical evaluation and should not be accepted at face value. Discuss the potential for misinformation and bias.
- **Reinforcing Academic Integrity:** Discuss the importance of honesty and integrity in schoolwork and ensure children understand school policies regarding the use of GenAl on assignments.
- Monitoring Use at Home: Be aware of the GenAl tools children are accessing outside of school and the content they interact with. Discuss potential risks like distraction or exposure to inappropriate content.
- Promoting Balanced Engagement: Encourage a balance between digital interactions and inperson social interactions to prevent potential social detachment.
- Valuing Local Culture: Reinforce the importance of Nigerian culture and values at home, discussing how Al tools might sometimes reflect different perspectives.
- Protecting Privacy: Be mindful of the data children share online and understand that it may be used for training Al models.
- By staying informed and engaged, parents can help ensure that GenAl is used in a way that supports their children's learning and well-being.

## **Practical Steps for Responsible AI Use and Adoption for Parents**



As Al tools become more integrated into education, parents play a crucial role in guiding their children to use these technologies responsibly. Whether it is helping with homework, exploring creative tasks, or preparing for exams, Al can be a helpful companion when used with care. Here are practical steps parents can take to support responsible Al use at home:

## **Learn About AI Tools Together**

Parents do not need to be tech experts, but it helps to understand the basics of how Al works. Explore tools like ChatGPT or Google Gemini with your child. This shared experience builds trust and helps you guide their usage based on informed choices.

## **Set Healthy Boundaries**

Establish clear rules about when and how AI can be used. For example, AI can help draft ideas or explain difficult topics, but it should not do all the work. Encourage your child to think critically, review AI-generated content, and make it their own. Discuss the difference between support and cheating.

### **Promote Critical Thinking**

Remind children that AI is not always correct or culturally accurate. Encourage them to question results, check facts, and verify information with teachers, books, or trusted websites. This helps build their judgment and reduces overdependence.

## **Monitor Usage Without Micromanaging**

Take an interest in how your child uses Al tools, but do so supportively rather than punitively. Ask questions like: "What did the Al suggest?" or "How did you improve the answer?" This shows you are involved and reinforces learning through reflection.

## **Discuss Privacy and Online Safety**

Teach your child not to share personal information with Al tools or websites. Explain how some platforms collect data and the importance of using only trusted, secure applications. Parental controls and privacy settings should also be enabled where available.

## **Encourage Creativity and Balance**

Al can spark imagination, helping children write poems, generate artwork, or design posters. Celebrate these moments, but also balance screen time with offline activities like reading, drawing, or playing. Al should enhance creativity, not replace it.

## **Partner with Teachers and Schools**

Stay informed about how your child's school is using Al. Attend parent meetings, ask questions, and share feedback. A strong school-home partnership ensures consistent guidance and promotes responsible digital habits.

Parents can help their children use AI as a powerful tool for learning while also instilling values of responsibility, curiosity, and integrity.

## LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES TO KEEP IN MIND FOR PARENTS



As children begin to explore and use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for learning and creativity, parents have a vital responsibility to guide them through the legal and ethical considerations that come with this technology. Understanding these issues helps protect children's rights, ensures safe online behaviour, and promotes responsible digital citizenship. Here are key legal and ethical issues parents should keep in mind:

## Data Privacy and Protection

Many AI tools collect data to improve their services, but this can pose risks if children share personal information. Parents should ensure that children do not input sensitive details such as full names, addresses, school names, or family information into AI platforms. It is important to use only trusted, secure tools that comply with privacy regulations such as Nigeria's Data Protection Act or international equivalents like GDPR.

## Age-Appropriate Use

Some Al tools have age restrictions or are not suitable for younger children. Parents should check the terms and conditions of any Al tool their child uses to ensure it aligns with age-appropriate content and safety standards. Using adult-targeted platforms without supervision can expose children to misinformation or inappropriate suggestions.

## Copyright and Originality

Children using AI to generate essays, images, or music must understand that not all AI-generated content is free to use or claim as their own. Parents should explain the importance of giving credit where due, understanding copyright laws, and avoiding plagiarism. This teaches respect for other people's work and helps children learn to use AI as a creative assistant, not a shortcut

## Academic Integrity

One ethical concern is when students submit Al-generated work as if it were entirely their own. Parents should emphasise the value of learning and honesty over merely getting good grades. Help your child understand that Al is a tool to guide and inspire, not to complete assignments without effort or understanding.

## Bias and Inaccuracy

Al tools are trained on large datasets, which may contain biases or errors. This means that the information they generate might be incorrect, offensive, or culturally insensitive. Parents should encourage children to cross-check information and discuss anything confusing or questionable with a trusted adult or teacher.

## Digital Footprint and Consent

Every time a child uses an Al platform, they contribute to their digital footprint. Parents should teach children the long-term implications of their online activity and the importance of informed consent, knowing what they are agreeing to before clicking "accept." Be cautious of platforms that request unnecessary permissions or access to devices.

## Responsible Use and Impact on Others

Ethical Al use also includes being kind and respectful online. Parents should discourage the misuse of Al for harmful purposes, such as cyberbullying, spreading rumours, or generating inappropriate content. Teaching empathy and digital respect helps raise children who are not only tech-savvy but also socially responsible.

This helps parents ensure that Al becomes a tool for learning, creativity, and empowerment used in ways that uphold legal standards and ethical values.

## GETTING STARTED: PRACTICAL STEPS FOR PARENTS

As schools and children increasingly engage with Artificial Intelligence (AI), parents play a crucial role in ensuring that its use is both responsible and beneficial. Getting started with AI at home does not require technical expertise, just curiosity, guidance, and a willingness to learn alongside your child. Here are practical steps parents can take to support AI adoption:

### 1. Learn the Basics of Al

Take time to understand what AI is and how it works. Start with simple explanations and examples, such as how YouTube recommends videos or how chatbots respond to questions. This basic understanding helps you make informed decisions about which tools your child should use.

## 2. Explore Al Tools Together

Sit with your child as they use Al-powered platforms like ChatGPT, uLesson, or educational games. Ask them to explain what they are doing, what the tool suggests, and how they are using the information. This shared exploration builds trust and opens up conversations about safe and ethical use.

## 3. Set Clear Boundaries and Purpose

Establish household rules on when, how, and why AI can be used. For instance, AI can be helpful for brainstorming, practising maths, or translating languages, but should not be used to complete assignments entirely. Help your child understand the difference between learning with AI and relying on it too heavily.

### 4. Promote Safe Online Behaviour

Teach children not to share personal information—like full names, addresses, or school details—on Al platforms. Check that the tools they use follow proper data privacy standards. Activate parental controls and review privacy settings on all devices.

## 5. Encourage Critical Thinking

Let your child know that AI is not always accurate or culturally appropriate. If AI gives an answer, ask your child how they know it is correct or how it could be improved. Encourage them to verify facts through other sources or ask a teacher for clarification.

## 6. Stay Involved with School Initiatives

Find out how your child's school is using Al. Participate in school meetings, workshops, or parent briefings on digital tools. Ask questions, share your observations, and work with teachers to ensure consistency between school and home guidance.

Parents can help children use Al wisely, turning it into a tool for growth, exploration, and learning that aligns with family values and educational goals.

## **HELPFUL RESOURCES**

To support your child in using Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly and effectively, it's important to have access to reliable tools and learning materials. Below is a curated list of helpful resources that can guide parents in understanding AI, exploring educational tools, and ensuring digital safety at home:

### 1. Common Sense Media

Website: www.commonsensemedia.org

This platform offers age-appropriate reviews of apps, games, and websites, including those with Al features. It also provides guides on managing screen time, online safety, and tech use at home.

### 2. Family Tech Talk (by Trend Micro)

Website: www.trendmicro.com/internet-safety

This resource offers simple, practical tips for parents on digital safety and how to guide children through responsible use of AI, internet tools, and social media.

## 3. Google's Be Internet Awesome

Website: https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com

An engaging programme that teaches children about online safety, digital citizenship, and privacy through games and videos. It also has a helpful parent guide.

### 4. YouTube Kids – Parental Resources

Website: www.youtubekids.com

A child-friendly video platform with parental controls. Parents can explore educational Al content and monitor what their children watch to ensure it's safe and relevant.

## 5. Al Literacy for Parents (AI4K12)

Website: www.ai4k12.org

Although originally designed for educators, this site offers beginner-friendly materials on Al concepts. Parents can use these to build their understanding and support learning at home.

## 6. Nigerian Data Protection Commission (NDPC)

Website: www.ndpc.gov.ng

This is the national authority on data protection. Parents can learn more about how their children's data should be handled and what to look out for when choosing tech platforms.

## 7. Parenting for a Digital Future (London School of Economics)

Website: www.parenting.digital

This blog provides research-based insights into how digital tools, including AI, are shaping parenting and learning today.

## 8. Platforms Used in Nigeria

- Scholarship.ng: Prepares students for WAEC and JAMB using Al-powered practice tools.
- uLesson: Offers offline learning with personalised video lessons.
- Whispa: Al-driven sexual health app, useful for parents of older teens.
- Eko Innovation Centre: Hosts Al workshops and training for families and youth.

By regularly engaging with these resources, parents can stay informed, make better decisions about digital tools, and guide their children towards responsible and empowering use of Al.

## ANNEX FOR PARENTS: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND PRACTICAL PROMPTS

This section provides conversation starters and activities parents can use at home to encourage responsible AI use and digital literacy.

## A Practical Evening in the Adebayo Home

It's 7:30 pm in Ibadan. Dinner is over, and Mrs Adebayo, a mother of three, sits at the table with her 11-year-old daughter, Tola, who is revising for her Continuous Assessment in English. Tola, curious and chatty, pulls out her mum's phone and says,

"Mummy, can I use that AI thing again, the one that helped me write the story about the tortoise?"

Mrs Adebayo nods cautiously, remembering their last conversation about using ChatGPT.

"Alright," she says, "but let's use it together this time."

They sit side by side. Tola types: "Write a Yoruba folktale with a moral lesson." The Al quickly generates a story. Tola reads it aloud. It's creative, but a few proverbs are awkwardly phrased. Mrs Adebayo asks,

"What do you think of that story? Would your teacher say those proverbs are correct?"

Tola frowns.

"Hmm... Maybe not. Should we check with my Yoruba notes?"

"Good idea," her mum smiles. "Let's compare and rewrite some parts."

Together, they rewrite the story in more accurate Yoruba and include a family proverb passed down from Tola's grandmother.

Next, they open a drawing tool on the phone. Tola describes a scene from the story: "A clever tortoise standing beside a wise old lion under an Iroko tree."

The AI creates a colourful image. They laugh at the lion's funny face but save the image to print for school.

Before bedtime, Mrs Adebayo uses the Al Use Checklist stuck to the fridge:

- Is this tool age-appropriate? Yes, I supervised it.
- Did we check facts together? Yes, using school notes.
- Was it fun and safe? Definitely no personal info shared.

Finally, as Tola gets ready for bed, her mum asks:

"So, when should we ask Al for help, and when should we ask your teacher?" Tola replies:

"Al is great for starting stories... but I need my teacher for marking and Yoruba proverbs!"

They both laugh, and that's a win for digital literacy, family bonding, and responsible Al use.

## Lesson in Balance - Al, Math, and Baba Emeka's Wisdom

It's a quiet Saturday morning in Enugu. Mr Emeka, a civil servant, is reading the newspaper while his 13-year-old son, Chuka, frowns at his maths workbook.

"Daddy, this simultaneous equation is too hard. Can I use the Al app on your phone?" Mr Emeka smiles, folds his paper, and joins him at the table.

"Alright, let's see what it says, but we'll work through it together."

Chuka opens an AI chat tool on WhatsApp and types: "Solve 3x + 4y = 10 and 2x - y = 1." The AI returns a neat solution with steps. Chuka breathes in relief.

"Wow! That was quick! I wish this could take all my tests for me."

Mr Emeka chuckles, then says gently,

"That's the thing, my son. Al can show the path, but you still need to walk it yourself." He points to the solution.

"Let's write it down and try it without the app now. I'll do the first step, and you'll do the next."

Chuka groans but agrees. They solve the problem line by line. Mr Emeka explains how checking the answer in his head used to win him praise in school.

Afterwards, they ask the AI to generate three more similar equations. Chuka solves them with just a little help.

To cool off, they switch gears:

"Now let's ask for something fun. Can Al make a maths joke?"

Chuka types it in, and the app responds: "Why did the maths book look sad? Because it had too many problems."

They burst out laughing.

Before they pack up, Mr Emeka reminds him:

"Al is like your chalkboard, it's a tool. The real strength is in your brain. Use both wisely.

Perfect! Here's a revised version of the "Learning Together" scenario set in Bauchi, but featuring a mother and daughter from an Igbo-speaking background, showing how language, culture, and technology meet in a shared moment of discovery:

## "Mama, Al No Fit Speak Our Igbo Well"- Learning Together in Bauchi

In a quiet compound in Bauchi, 12-year-old Adaeze is doing her homework while her mother, Mama Nkem, prepares of akwu in the kitchen. Adaeze pauses, curious, and walks over with her tablet.

"Mummy, come and see what this Al just wrote it tried to write a story in Igbo!" Mama Nkem, who grew up in Enugu but now lives in Bauchi, wipes her hands and sits beside her daughter on the wooden bench.

"Al? You mean that app on your school tab? Let me see what it said." Adaeze shows her a paragraph where the Al tried to translate: "The clever tortoise taught the villagers to be kind." But instead, it reads:

"Nwa mberede nwere uche, kuziri obodo ka ha buru ezigbo mmad." Mama Nkem chuckles.

"Hmm, this one is trying, but 'nwa mberede' is not the right way to say tortoise here. Let's fix it."

Together, they adjust the sentence:

"Mbe nwere amamihe kuziri ndu obodo otú e si ewere obiuma na ezi omume." Adaeze nods, typing the corrections into her school notes.

Later, they ask the AI to write a folk story in Igbo. It generates something close, but Mama Nkem helps Adaeze add proverbs she learned from her own grandmother, like "A na-agba afa ka a mara onye ukwu ya toro" (It is through praise that we know whose efforts are worthy).

By bedtime, Adaeze has a full, corrected folk story ready to present in class with a proud note: "Written with AI and corrected by my mother."

## **A. Conversation Starters**

- "What did you ask the Al today, and what did it say?"
- "Can we check if that information is correct together?"
- "How do you think the AI came up with that answer?"
- "When should we ask a teacher instead of an Al?"

## **B.** Activities to Try Together

- Co-write a story or poem using an Al tool like ChatGPT, then discuss what to change or improve.
- Use an image-generating tool (like DALL·E) to create artwork based on a school project.
- Compare a homework explanation from Al with a textbook or teacher's notes.

## C. Home Use Checklist

- Is the tool age-appropriate and safe?
- Are privacy settings activated?
- Does your child understand when to ask an adult for help?
- Have you discussed how to use AI without copying or cheating?

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