ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE K-2

FOR FAMILIES

GRADES K-2

What to expect:

Even at a young age, children in grades K-2 may encounter artificial intelligence (AI) in games, apps, and smart devices. This guide will help you understand how they are beginning to interact with AI and provide simple ways to support their learning. Encouraging curiosity and safe technology use now will help build a strong foundation for responsible AI awareness as they grow.

Learning goals:

- Recognize and name examples of AI in common devices, such as voice assistants, smart toys, and game recommendations.
- Explore how AI can recognize pictures, voices, or patterns by interacting with simple AI-powered tools or games.
- Discuss how AI can follow instructions and learn from data, but it does not think or feel like a person.
- Learn how to interact responsibly with AI-powered devices, including asking permission before using technology and understanding that AI may not always provide correct information.

What to do at home:

- Talk to a Voice Assistant – Let your child ask a voice assistant fun questions (e.g., "What's the weather?" or "Tell me a joke"), then discuss how the AI understands and responds. Talk about when it's okay or not okay to use AI.
- Spot AI in Your Home – Walk around the house with your child and find examples of AI, such as voice assistants (Alexa, Siri), smart TVs, or automated recommendations in apps. Ask, "How do you think this knows what to do?" to spark curiosity.
- Compare AI and Human Thinking – Discuss with your child how AI can follow instructions and learn from data, but it cannot think or have feelings like a person.

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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and love exploring the world around them. Since curiosity helps students learn and grow, families can encourage it at home—especially when it comes to understanding technology like artificial intelligence (AI). Encourage your child to ask questions, think creatively, and discover how AI is part of their daily life.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:
- Can you think of a toy or device that seems to "talk" or "think" like a person? How do you think it works?
- If you could invent a robot helper, what would it do?
- What do you think would happen if a smart speaker (like Alexa) didn't understand what you said? Why?

Your child will have plenty of questions about AI—and that's great! If you don't know an answer, the best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Help your child develop strong communication skills by talking about artificial intelligence (AI) in a fun and engaging way. Discussing AI allows children to ask questions, share their ideas, and think about how technology helps people. These conversations also help them understand that different people may have different opinions about AI, building confidence and empathy.

Support your child's communication skills with AI-related questions like these:
- Can you think of a toy or device that "talks" or answers questions? How does it know what to say?
- Do you think AI can think like a person? Why or why not?
- What would happen if an AI helper made a mistake? How could we fix it?

Encourage your child to share their thoughts, and if they have questions, explore the answers together!

Fostering Comprehension

AI can be used in engaging ways to support reading comprehension. Tools like Microsoft's Immersive Reader can read text aloud, define words, and generate summaries. Some AI tools can change the difficulty of a story or summarize it in a simpler way, making reading more fun and less frustrating. AI does not replace teachers or parents—it is just another tool. Think of AI like a calculator for reading—it helps kids build skills, but they still need to think, ask questions, and engage with books.

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