

Welcome to our Web Rangers Digital Literacy Training Guide For Parents!



Web Rangers empowers children with skills and knowledge, so they use the internet and social media safely and responsibly, so they can champion their rights in the digital world.

We're here to help you, the digitally savvy parent, with key information and resources to assist you in navigating the challenges and making the most of the opportunities that come with raising children in a digital world.



The topic for this edition is: Artificial Intelligence (AI)



What is it AI?

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is when we computers learn and imitate how to do things that usually require human intelligence, like identifying an object, understanding human speech, and even talking!

How do computers “learn” to think? Well, it’s like training a pet—through a lot of repetition and feedback. AI systems are fed lots and a lot of data and information, they are then trained to recognize patterns & common characteristics in the data in order to accurately predict & perform specific actions that solve problems for the end user. This process is known as “machine learning”.

When AI systems perform tasks correctly, they are ‘rewarded’ with positive feedback, which helps them refine their processes. The more training data an AI system receives, the more accurate and effective it becomes. Examples of AI systems include things such as self-driving cars and social media apps that can identify whether an image contains violent or disturbing content.

AI technologies have progressed to a stage where today we have generative AI, intelligent systems that can take the data given to it and recreate new things like images, videos and even write essays and novels.

How does AI affect my child?

While AI tools and systems can help children be more productive in their studies, learn new skills, and produce higher quality creative assignments; they also pose a number of significant threats to their wellbeing and development:

- Social Media Algorithms and Echo Chambers

Social media apps use ai-driven algorithms (step-by-step instructions for a computer to perform tasks) to analyze user behavior. Every like, comment, or share helps these algorithms decide what content to show next.

This can trap children in echo chambers, where they see only content that aligns with their current interests or beliefs, while diverse, credible, or important information is deprioritized. This limits their perspective and violates their right to access varied information.

- Plagiarism and Disinformation

Children might misuse AI tools to plagiarize schoolwork or create fake content, such as manipulated images and videos, which can be used for harmful activities like cyberbullying, harassment, or spreading false information.

- Inaccuracy and Bias

AI systems sometimes make mistakes or are trained on incomplete or biased data, which can lead children to develop inaccurate or skewed views of the world.

What can I do to help?

Here are practical ways to guide your child in using child AI technologies appropriately and responsibly:

- Encourage Critical Thinking

Teach your child to question the information they receive, especially on social media, and to verify its accuracy by consulting multiple credible sources.

- Help Kids Analyze Content Carefully

Show them how to spot unusual features or inconsistencies in images and videos, and to use fact-checking websites when in doubt.

- Promote Open Dialogue

Create a safe space in the home where children feel comfortable discussing their online activities and concerns with you and other family members.

- Discuss Different Viewpoints

Encourage debates and discussions about news and current events to help children respect diverse opinions and build balanced perspectives.

- Teach Transparency

Emphasize the importance of giving credit to original sources, especially when they use AI tools to complete schoolwork or projects.

- Encourage Credible Information-Seeking

Guide your child to rely on trusted sources for news and information and to verify facts before sharing content.

- Enroll in Digital Literacy Programs

Enroll your child into programs like Web Rangers, which equip children with essential skills for using digital technologies responsibly and critically.

By staying informed and providing guidance, you can help your child use AI tools for good and contribute towards a healthier digital landscape which safeguards their wellbeing and remain protected from harm.

Stay in Touch

Stay Updated: Subscribe to our newsletter for the latest in digital literacy and safety. Learn more at [Web Rangers](#).

Digital Dilemmas? Get expert advice from Agony Aunt to navigate your child's online challenges. Visit [Hash Play](#) for support.

Report Misinformation: Encounter harmful content online? Report it to [Real 411](#) for expert reviews and action against digital threats to democracy.

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