

Spotlight on generative AI

Generative AI (gen AI) refers to technology that can create new content, like text and images, by learning from existing data. Gen AI can produce content that closely resembles human thought and creativity, which makes it increasingly popular among children for their learning and creative hobbies.

Potential risks

Spreading misinformation and disinformation

Gen AI can produce convincing yet false information, which may mislead anyone who encounters it. This is particularly concerning for children and young people who rely on AI for homework or research without understanding the importance of verifying facts.

Bias and ethical concerns

Gen AI tools cannot assess truth or bias in data sets so may unintentionally produce misleading or biased information, which can result in content that may be inappropriate or unfair. This means children and young people who use AI for research may get a skewed or limited perspective on certain topics.

Over-reliance on AI

Children and young people might become overly dependent on AI tools for creativity and problem-solving, potentially stunting their own critical thinking and creative skills. This reliance can hinder young people's ability to learn, create and problem-solve independently.

Practical advice

Fact-check everything

Speak to your child about spotting misinformation and fact-checking information produced by gen AI materials.

Promote critical thinking

Encourage open conversations about the potential biases in AI outputs, fostering an environment where children and young people can critically assess the content they encounter on gen AI tools.

Remember AI is a tool, not a genie

Remind your child to approach AI as something that is complementary to their learning and creativity instead of something that can magically solve problems or fulfil their needs.

For more information

