

GenAI and Youth Privacy Tipsheet



Read the report

This brief provides basic information and tips to help educators and parents/guardians protect children's privacy when using GenAI tools. For more information, see the accompanying report.

What is generative AI (genAI)?

Generative AI is a type of technology that creates different kinds of content, such as text, music, images, videos, or even programming language. It works by learning from large amounts of information, like data from the internet or public collections of information. Then, when you give, or "prompt", it with instructions or questions, it uses what it has learned to produce a response based on your input.

What GenAI tools are popular with youth?



ChatGPT

A tool that can be asked questions and it can then provide answers.



Canva AI

A tool that can design images, presentations, and graphics based on your prompt.



Snapchat My AI:

An integrated genAI feature in the Snapchat app where users can ask it to create images or even advice based on their prompts.



Character AI

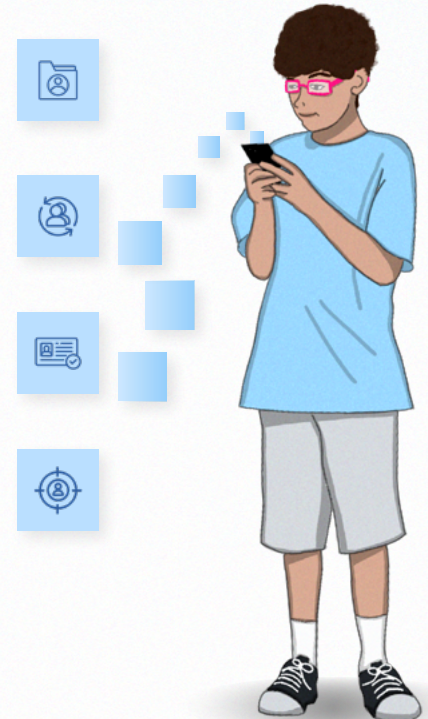
A tool that chats with the user in a human-like way, with virtual characters that can be personalized to the user's liking.

What should I know about digital privacy for youth using generative AI tools?

Getting back to basics - privacy is a human right, and extra efforts need to be taken to protect minors' privacy. Youth may just be beginning to experiment with these technologies, or use them in their daily lives. In either case, parents and youth must be aware of their privacy rights and associated risks; how privacy preferences change as they get older; and ultimately, their right to privacy without the pressure of their data being collected or refusal of services.

Whether these tools are for educational or personal use, (e.g. social media, for leisure), here are a few things to consider:

- 1. How AI tools use your personal data.** Anything you type into AI tools can sometimes show up again in other answers the tool gives. This includes personal information, so be careful not to share anything private that you wouldn't want others to see.
- 2. Sharing your information with others.** Personal information entered into these tools could inadvertently be shared with other users, whether intentionally or not.
- 3. Bits of data can be assembled to identify you.** Even if AI tools seek to obscure your personal information (e.g. replacing names with pseudonyms), it can be pieced together with other data to form detailed profiles of individuals or users.
- 4. Bad actors can seek to target or exploit you.** Criminals, bullies or other malicious actors can use AI tools by:
 - a. Inputting specific prompts designed to extract personal or sensitive information from the AI tool, and/or
 - b. Overriding safeguards to generate harmful or offensive outputs, bypassing protective measures.



Tips to protect your privacy when using genAI

1. Remember that the genAI tool you're working with is not human. **Don't input personal data into any generative AI tools.** If you need help with personal circumstances, share with a friend, family member, colleague, or take some time to create a thoughtful input that does not include any personal details. This includes using companion chatbots that are integrated into popular social media apps which have inherent privacy risks and harms, as you may feel compelled to share personal details that you wouldn't share publicly.
2. Remember that **whatever you share, can be reproduced or reused** in someone else's prompt. If you do use genAI tools to create photo/video content, try not to use images of youth in your inputs, and ensure that content generated by AI is labelled if the social media platform provides an option to do so (e.g. Instagram).
3. **Practice basic cyber hygiene** - turn off your chat history when using the tools, and opt-out of using your interaction with the tool to be used for AI model training (see resources below on how to do this).
4. Make efforts to **understand how the technology works, before using it.** We've linked some additional resources below for you to learn more.
5. If you feel uncomfortable with new technology being introduced in the classroom, **don't be afraid to ask questions and share concerns** with your teacher.

Tips for educators:

Tech or no tech? Consider what's best for your teaching goals.

Assess whether a genAI tool is ideal, or if the same learning can be achieved with non-AI tools. If so, choose the non-AI option to mitigate privacy risks.



Follow your school board's privacy impact assessment decisions

on all technologies. If your school board hasn't yet implemented guidelines, urge them to issue guidance and standards on genAI tool use.



Opt for genAI tools that require minimal or no personal data input about your students.



Chat with other educators and school boards

about their approaches to implementing AI + genAI tools.



Tips for parents/guardians:

Stay actively informed.

Know what tools your child is using both in their personal and educational lives.



Maintain digital fluency.

Understand how the technology works by reading, watching informative videos, and listening to podcasts.



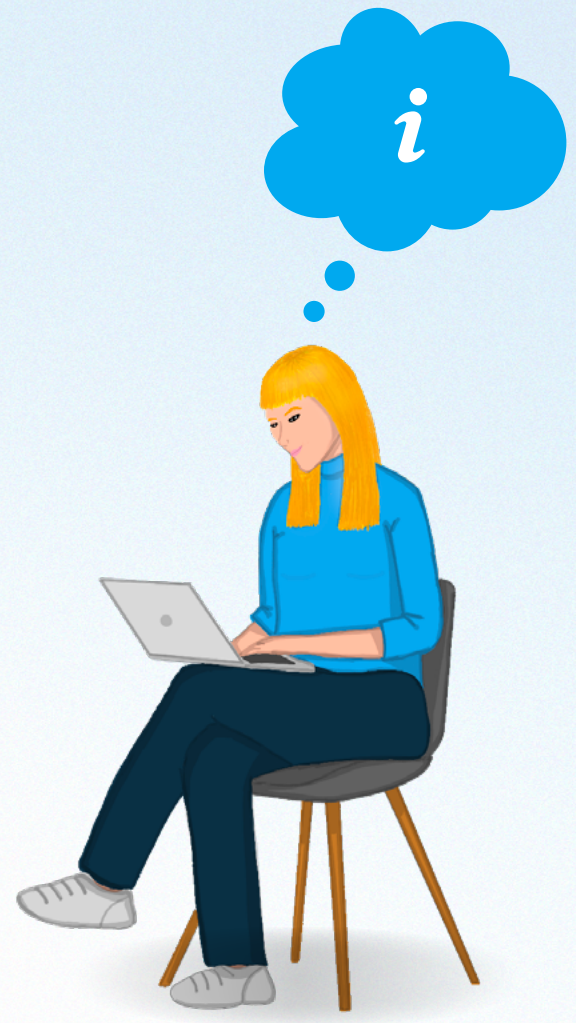
Have candid conversations with your child.

Chat about their use of genAI and digital tools in general, and stay in dialogue with your child's educators on how these tools are being used in the classroom.



Learn more

- Generative AI explained in 2 minutes (video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwF-X5STYks>
- What is generative AI? A video explainer:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2fqAlmoPo>
- A guide on how to “prompt” AI:
<https://www.oneusefulthing.org/p/a-guide-to-prompting-ai-for-what>
- GenAI in Teaching and Learning Toolkit for Educators by BCCampus:
<https://opentextbc.ca/teachingandlearningwithai/front-matter/introduction/>
- Understanding Generative AI: A Guide for Parents:
<https://namle.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/genai-parents.pdf>
- A broad resource for school boards, teachers, students, and parents on AI in education:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/ai-in-education>
- How to opt-out of having your interaction used for AI model training:
<https://www.howtogeek.com/how-to-opt-out-of-ai-model-training-on-various-platforms/>



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