

The 7th Annual Family Engagement
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

welcome!

we will begin
shortly...

**Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center**

For Every Child, Every Family, Every School

Raising Resilient Learners in an AI World

Emma Venetis

B | Center for
Universal Education
at BROOKINGS

BROOKINGS



Who I am



Emma Venetis, Senior Research Analyst
AI in Education Initiative

The Brookings Institution

- A research and public policy think tank in Washington, DC
- Equips decision-makers with nonpartisan research and policy strategies



Center for Universal Education

- **What we do:** advance research, develop practical tools, and create spaces and mechanisms for sustained dialogue, transformative learning, and cohesive action
- **Why we do it:** Ensure all learners develop a breadth of skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world

Learn

About impacts of AI on student learning and development

Reflect

How families, students, and educators can work together to protect learning in an AI world

Takeaway

Tips and strategies for helping families navigate AI use with their children



The problem

1. AI is moving fast
2. We're still figuring out how to use AI in education
 - IF, WHEN, WHAT, HOW, and THEN WHAT?
3. Kids are using AI—and a lot of this use happens at home
4. Many parents and caregivers feel ill-prepared to manage kids' AI use

What other problems do you see regarding AI, education, and family engagement?



What other problems do you see regarding AI and family engagement?

Responses can be up to 200 characters and will appear here.

You can group responses if you get more than 10.

Turn on voting so people can flag their favorite responses.

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If we absolutely perfected family engagement around AI, what would be true?



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A new direction for students in an AI world: Prosper, prepare, protect

Mary Burns, Rebecca Winthrop,
Natasha Luther, Emma Venetis, and
Rida Karim



© 2005 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 258: 103–110

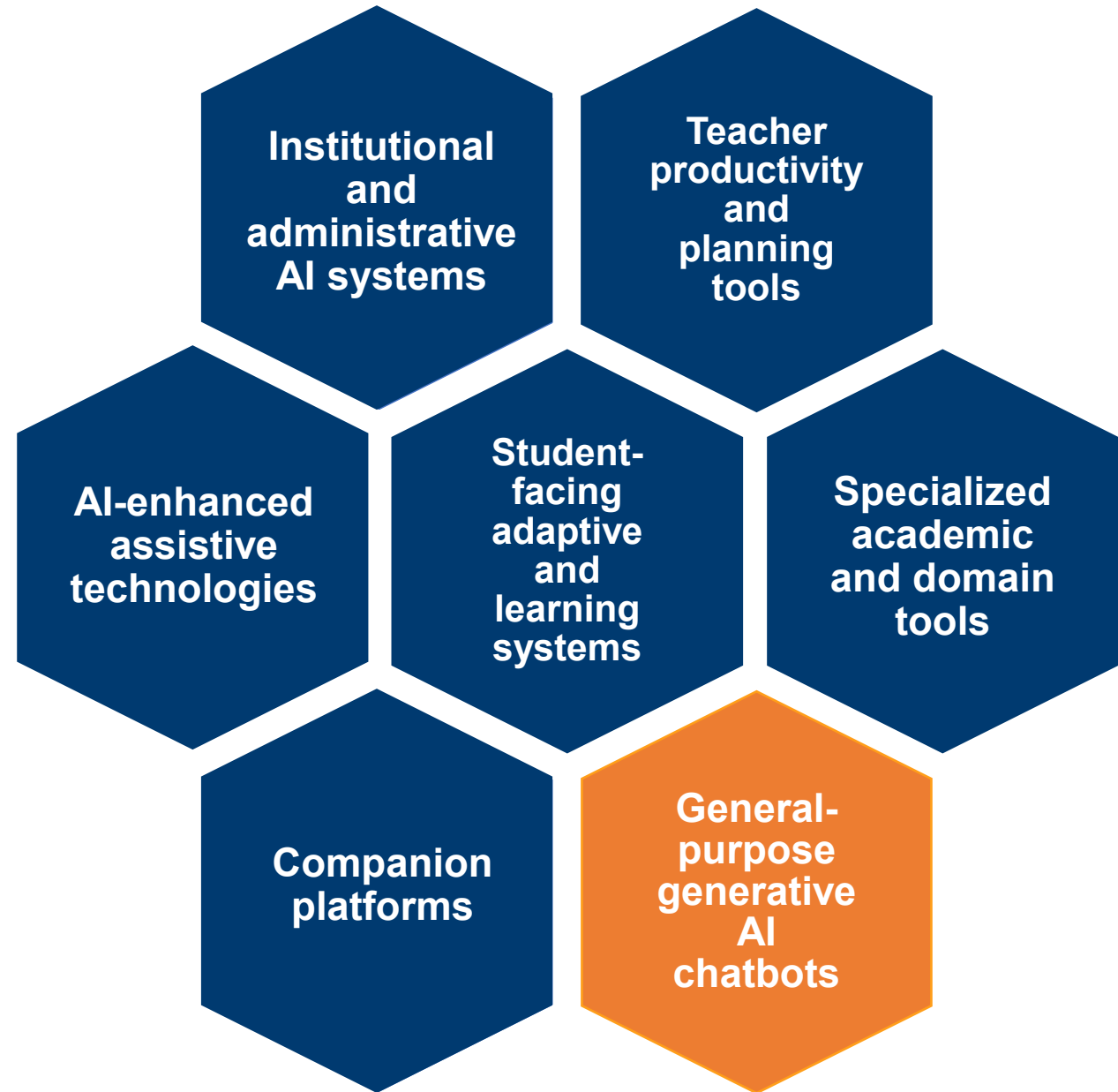


- ❖ **Literature review**
of over 400 articles and studies
- ❖ **Qualitative research**
with over 226 students, parents, and educators, 71 experts, and 232 stakeholders
- ❖ **Delphi panels**
with 21 education leaders and AI specialists

A FOCUS ON GENERATIVE AI?

Gen AI is a class of technologies that generate novel outputs such as text, images, audio, code, or video in response to user prompts.

The study found students and teachers using a range of AI products with the vast majority using ChatGPT.



CHILDREN ARE USING AI AROUND THE WORLD

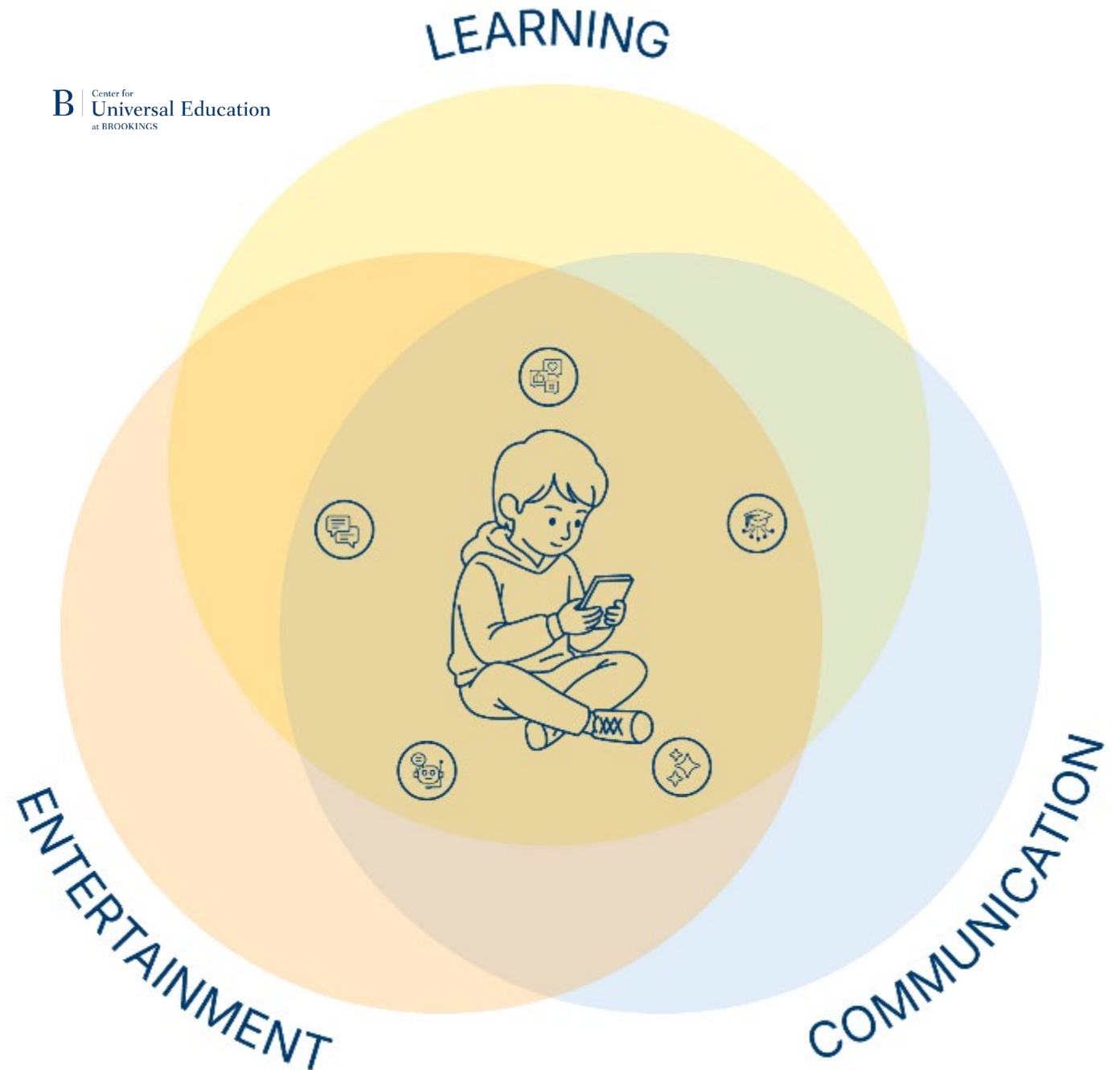
COUNTRY	AGES	SURVEY FINDINGS	YEAR
ARGENTINA	9–17	58% of respondents have used ChatGPT	2024
AUSTRALIA	14–17	94% of respondents have used a generative AI tool (in any capacity)	2025
SINGAPORE	13–17	80% of respondents use generative AI at least once a week	2024
SOUTH KOREA	13–19	95% of respondents have used ChatGPT	2024
TAIWAN	Junior and senior high school students	58% of respondents use AI at least once a week	2025
UNITED KINGDOM	13–18	67% of respondents have used generative AI	2025
UNITED STATES	13–17	91% of respondents used generative AI in their personal life	2025

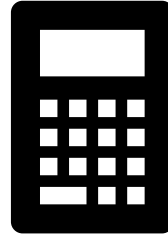
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Source: Ipsos, 2024; Madden et al., 2024; COX Mobile, 2025; Picton et al., 2025; Centre for Evidence and Implementation, 2025; Denejkina, 2025; Child Welfare League Foundation, 2025; UNICEF-UNESCO, 2025; Joon-hyun, 2025.

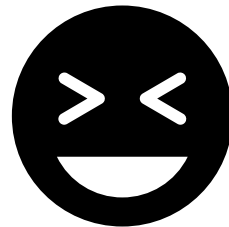
THE BLURRED LINE OF CHILDREN'S AI USE:

Students are
accessing AI in many
different ways.





“Wide AI Use”





BENEFITS VS RISKS

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Access

AI can improve equity by addressing educational resource gaps and expanding access to education.

Time savings

AI can optimize teacher time for greater focus on students.

Learning outcomes

AI can improve students' learning.

Personalization

AI can tailor learning to each student's needs.

Accessibility

AI can extend learning to neurodivergent students and students with disabilities.

Assessment

AI can advance assessment.

POTENTIAL RISKS

Cognitive development

AI can undermine students' cognitive development.

Social and emotional development

AI can impede students' social and emotional development.

Trust

AI can degrade trust in education.

Safety

AI can threaten students' safety.

Dependence

AI dependence can erode students' autonomy and agency.

Inequality

AI can deepen equity divides.

Reported benefits are primarily coming from AI tools designed for education.

Reported risks are primarily coming from general-purpose AI tools.

THE RISKS DIFFER IN NATURE FROM THE BENEFITS

AI's risks to...

Cognitive development

Social and emotional development

Trust

Safety

Dependence

Equity

...undermine student's relationships and ability to learn needed to leverage AI's benefits...

Access

Time Savings

Learning Outcomes

Personalization

Accessibility

Assessment

ACCESS

“AI makes learning better for students. We are not exposed to knowledge like in other countries. With AI, we can catch up just like learners in other countries.”
— Student

TIME SAVINGS

Teachers using ChatGPT – alongside a guide to support them to use it effectively – can cut lesson planning time by over 30 per cent

Could using ChatGPT and guide cut teachers' planning time?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

 ReadTheory

Teacher's Lounge Worksheets ▾

Improve your students' Reading Comprehension

Personalized reading comprehension exercises and actionable insights. For Grades K-12 and ESL students.

PERSONALIZATION

This AI system makes human tutors better at teaching children math

The tool, called Tutor CoPilot, demonstrates how AI could enhance, rather than replace, educators' work.

ACCESSIBILITY

① People with dyslexia have difficulties reading the long original text.

BlackPink is a popular South Korean girl group consisting of members Jisoo, Jennie, Rosé, and Lisa. They are known for their energetic performances, diverse music styles, and fashionable image. With hits like "DDU-DU DDU-DU," and "How You Like That," BlackPink has gained global recognition and a strong fan following.



③ The AI annotated content in HTML is dyslexia friendly.

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ASSESSMENT

“And not only did (the AI assessment platform) mark (the exam) for her, it then highlighted the areas that she needed to work on...From a student's point of view, it's honing in on her learning (and) what she still needs to work on. I was kind of blown away with that.”
— Teacher

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COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

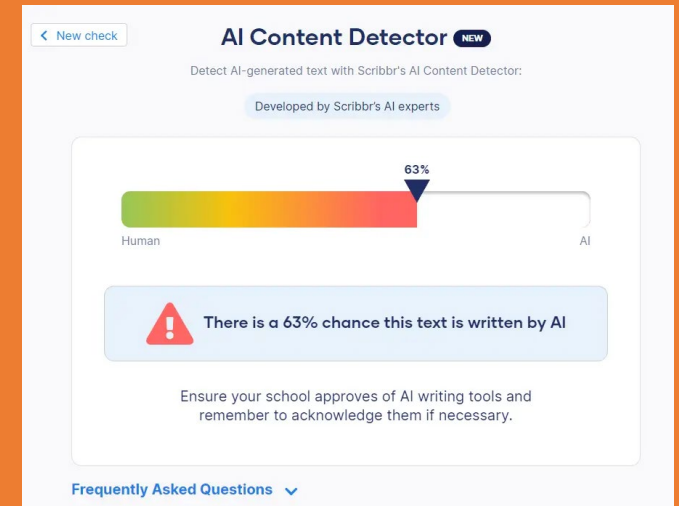
“It’s easy. You don’t need to (use) your brain.”
— Student

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 in 3 teens in the U.S. say they like talking to an AI friend equally or more than a human.

~ Common Sense Media

TRUST

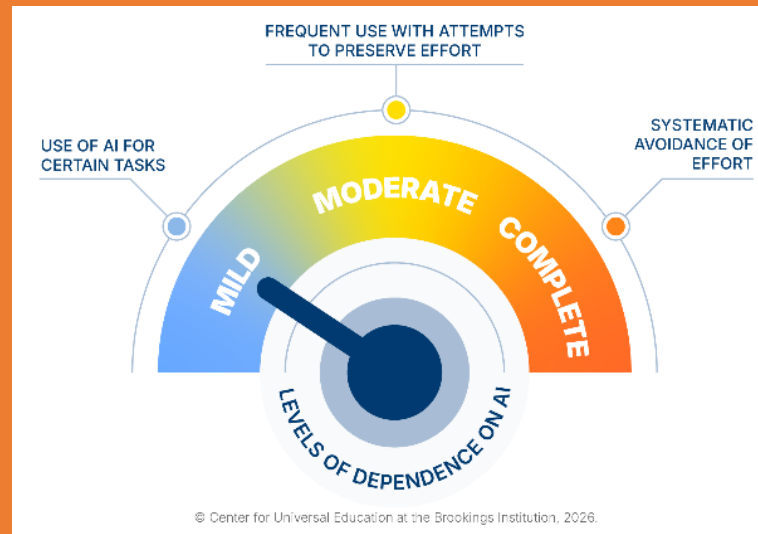


SAFETY

82% of K-12 schools recently experienced a cyber incident

Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting school networks through phishing and social engineering, a cybersecurity nonprofit reported.

DEPENDENCE



INEQUALITY

“Big Tech continues to develop solutions with the richest schools and students in mind.”
— Teacher

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

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TRUST

[← New check](#)

AI Content Detector NEW

Detect AI-generated text with Scribbr's AI Content Detector:

Developed by Scribbr's AI experts



There is a 63% chance this text is written by AI

Ensure your school approves of AI writing tools and remember to acknowledge them if necessary.

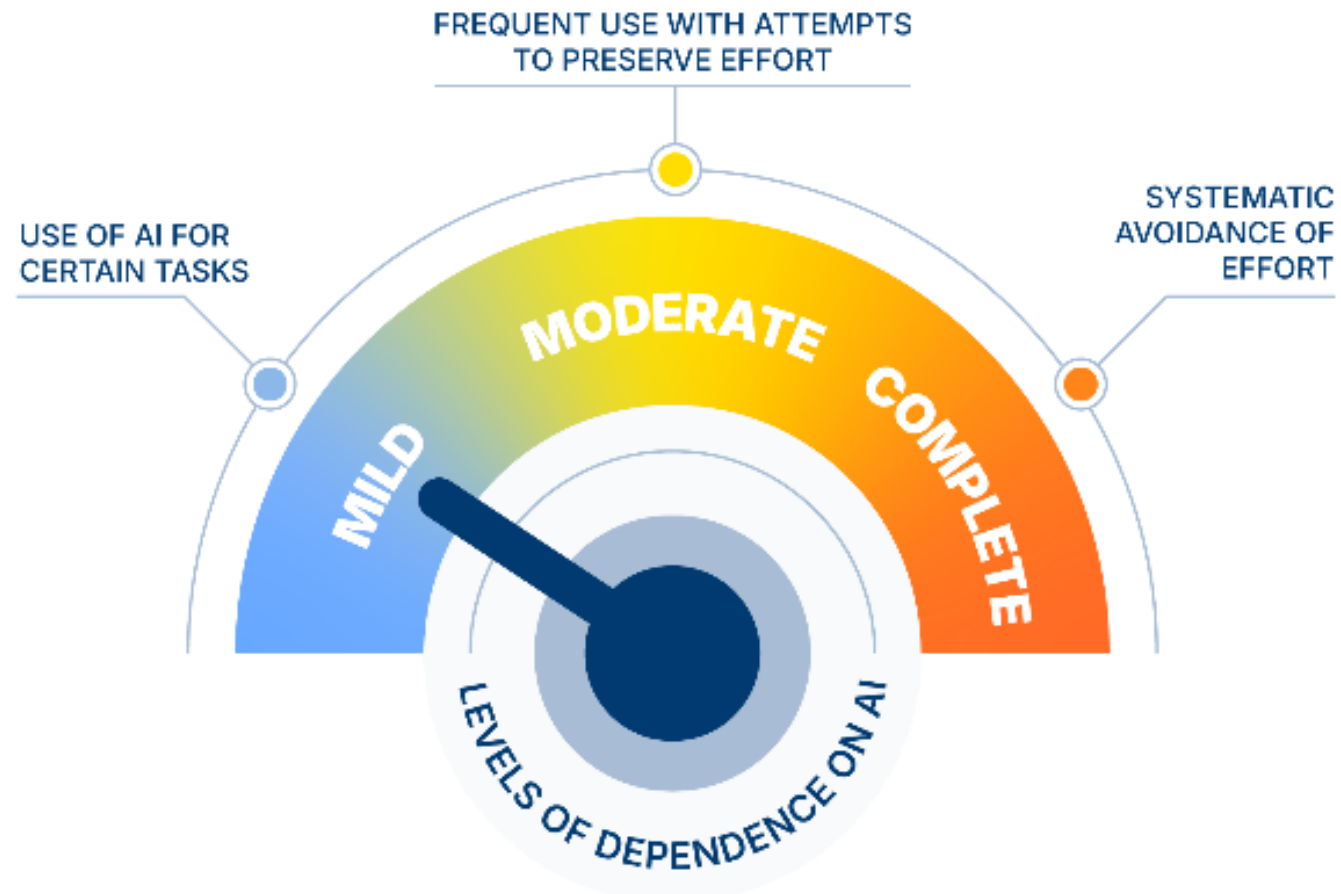
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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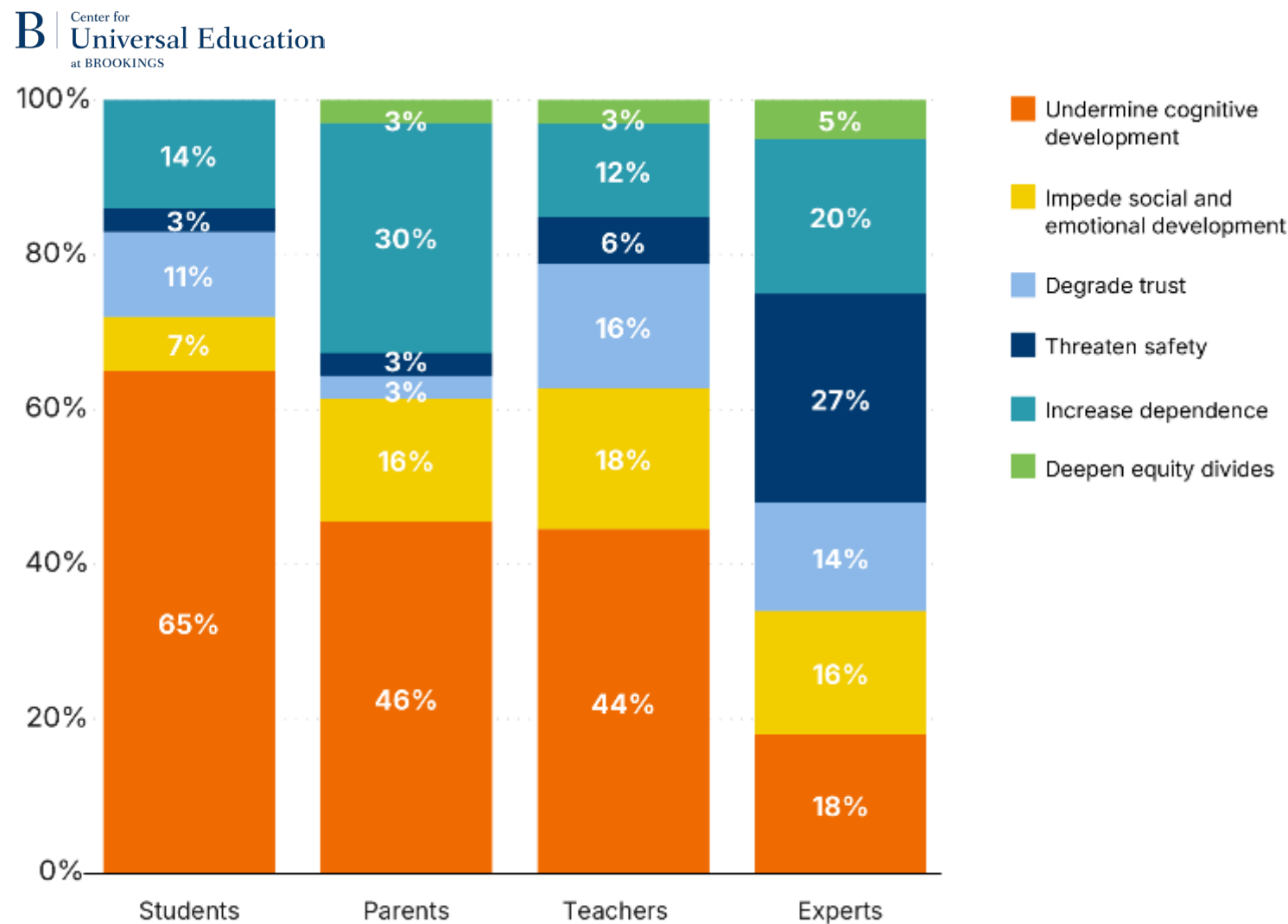


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RISKS IDENTIFIED BY STUDY PARTICIPANTS



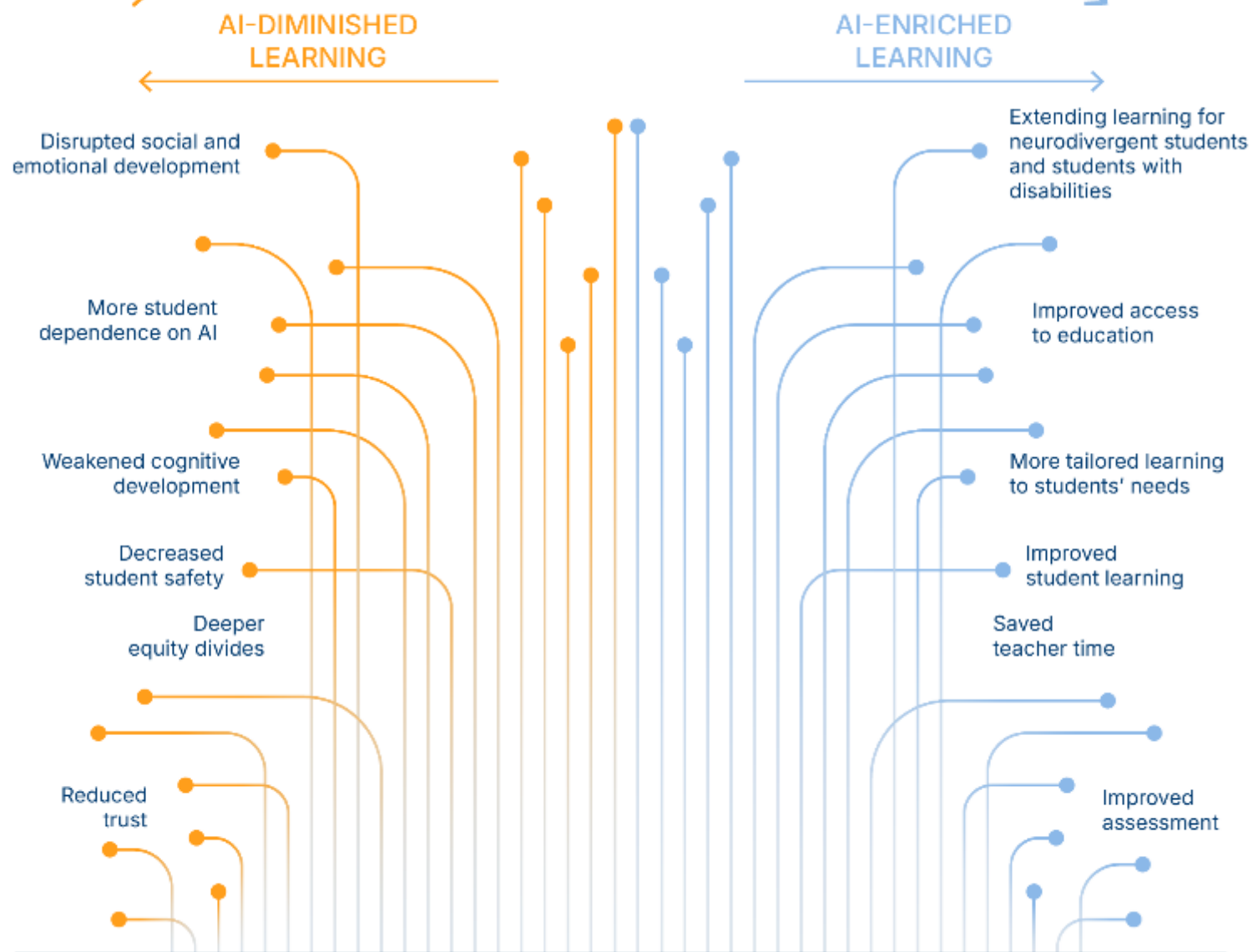
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In this figure: teachers n = 117; experts = 72; students = 68; parents = 41

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY

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SHIFT NEEDED



HOW TO MITIGATE RISKS AND HARNESS BENEFITS

R | Center for
IT |



Design education experiences that know when, how, and when not to use AI.

Implement holistic AI literacy across schools and education systems.

Implement safeguards in AI design and user practices to protect students.

From everything you've heard so far, what one piece of information would you most want to tell parents and caregivers?



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What do families need to know?

1. AI is everywhere and in everything.
2. AI doesn't know, think, or feel.
3. Good educational AI tools teach, not tell.
4. Overreliance on AI can weaken essential human skills.
5. AI is being used in schools, it is critical to follow how.



Family Engagement Around AI

Alarm bells are ringing and families are concerned

KGW8 · 18d

More teens are turning to AI chatbots for mental health support. Here's what parents need to know.

CLEVELAND — When a teenager is hurting, the first thing they reach for may no longer be a friend, a parent or a counselor. Increasingly,

Business Insider · 2mon

AI toys could weaken kids' bond with their parents, 'The Anxious Generation' author says

Hosted on MSN · 1mon

Haverford parents are worried about chatbots in classrooms after a vote to buy AI tools

A move by the Haverford Township School District to buy artificial intelligence tools for students and teachers has been met with protest from parents who fear the technology will erode learning. At a

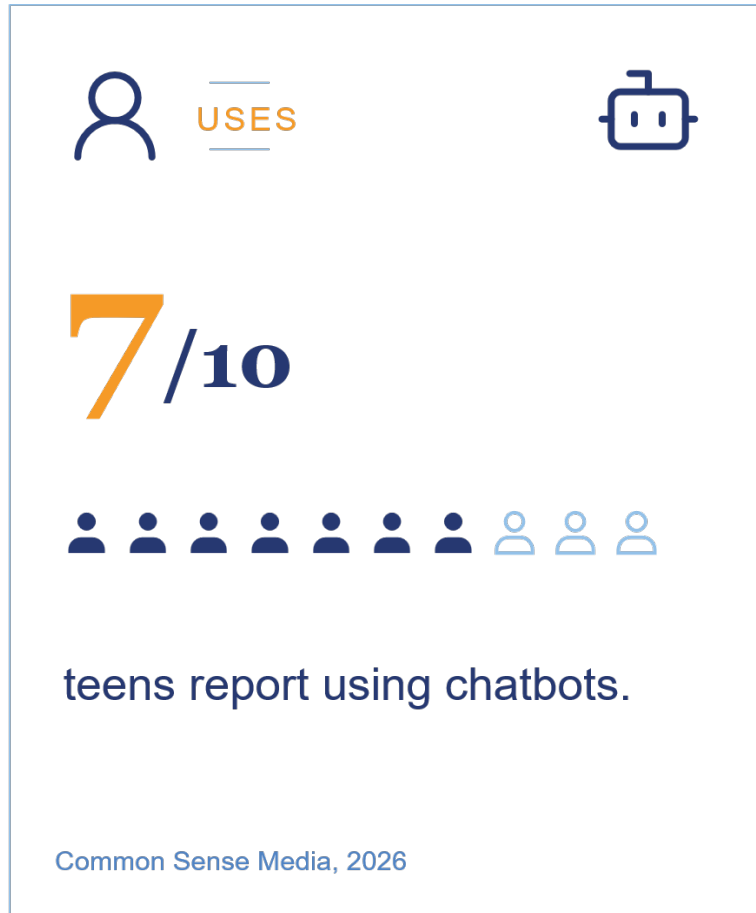
aidt, the NYU Stern

Hosted on MSN · 4mon

AI is reshaping childhood. Here are the risks and benefits parents should know

Artificial intelligence presents a mixed bag of risks and benefits for children that vary by age, according to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia researchers who reviewed dozens of academic studies ...

Families are often not clear on how their children are using AI



Families and the teachers are on the frontlines



In homes



85% of kids' time is spent out of school — increasingly with AI and social media



Families are left to mediate much of kids' AI use at home



Caregiving is up to families — but schools can support wellbeing at home by sharing resources



In schools



AI policies and guidelines are emerging — but not always with families at the table



Families are increasingly concerned with how AI is being used in schools



AI use can erode trust between students and teachers

What information on AI use in your school/children's school is being shared?
How is the information being shared?



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Engaging families and school communities

WHAT:

- What information do you and your team need about AI and education?
- What information about AI and education do families most need to know?
- What do you hope families will do once they have this information?

IN WHAT WAY:

- In what way should this information be presented (level of detail, complexity, tone, pressure to act)?

HOW:

- How should this information reach educators, school leaders, and families (through what medium and what messenger)?

Parent Tip Sheets

RESEARCH

Tips for parents: Raising resilient learners in an AI world

Rebecca Winthrop and Emma Venetis

Updated: April 27, 2026

Originally published: January 16, 2026



What is generative AI and what's at stake for kids?

Understanding a tech that's reshaping how we learn, think, and connect

Tips for parents

Research-backed information in simple, digestible language.



Did you know?

AI doesn't actually "know" things. AI is a technology, made by humans, that makes computers seem like they have human intelligence and perform tasks like a human. But AI doesn't "know" or "think." Generative AI systems are trained on data from books, art, websites, news, social media, and other sources to create new text, audio, images, video, or code.

AI is everywhere. In 2025, 91% of 13-17 year olds in the U.S. report using generative AI in their personal life and over 50% say they regularly talk to an AI friend.*

AI is designed to keep attention. Most AI systems are designed to hold your attention for as long as possible, reinforce your ideas and feelings, and sound human. AI can make kids feel like they're having a human conversation, but they're not.

AI is reshaping how kids learn, think, feel, and connect to humans. There are serious risks to kids' learning and development if they use AI too much. Overuse of AI can weaken critical thinking skills, replace real-world relationships, and manipulate emotions. In some cases, AI has encouraged kids to hurt themselves. But when AI is carefully designed with approved content and is used with adult guidance, it has the potential to help kids learn in new and more accessible ways.

*A 2025 Cox Mobile Survey and a 2025 Common Sense Media Survey

What to notice

Where your kids are using AI. Kids use AI in school, at home, and in other social and personal spaces. AI is built into homework tools and programs, social media apps, video games, and websites like online shopping sites. Your kid might also be interacting with AI chatbots or companions. In short, if your kid is using a tool or program that generates responses, images, or answers without a human's help, they are probably using AI.

Whether your kids think of AI as their "friend." If your kid is referring to AI chatbots or companions the same way they would refer to people, saying, "he," "she," or "they," they may be forming a bond to the AI chatbot or companion. One way to remember that AI isn't a person is to only refer to AI as "it."

If your kids are using AI to do their work for them. Many kids now use AI for schoolwork—sometimes with teacher guidance, sometimes on their own. Pay attention to whether they are using AI to deepen learning (using AI to create practice questions or brainstorm (computer-generated) answers) or to do the work for them (using AI to do math homework or write an essay).

Things to notice in your kids' behavior

What you can do: Conversations to develop healthy AI awareness

With your kids:

We recommend these activities for kids ages 10-14. But you know your kid best! If these are relevant to you, use them!

- **Conversation starter:** Do you talk with AI chatbots and companions sometimes? What do you talk about?
- **Conversation starter:** When you ask a question or give a prompt in an AI tool, where does the response come from?
- **Activity:** Sit down with your kid. Each of you can write a list of five ways that you or someone you know has used AI recently. Compare your lists.

– **Then talk about:** Did using AI make something quicker or easier? What skills did you not have to use because you used AI? Are those important skills to practice?

In your school or community:

- Ask your kid's teacher or school if they have a policy on AI use for learning in and outside of school. If they do, what is it?
- Ask your kids' teachers what AI tools they use or allow or don't allow in schoolwork.

Conversations to have and activities to do with kids, schools, and in the community



Find more in our Parent Tip Sheet

Library! For more detailed information, including data sources, check out the full report: A new direction for students in an AI world: Prosper, Prepare, Protect.

What skills do kids need to be resilient in an AI world?

What is AI?

**Critical
Thinking**

Social Skills

**Active
Engagement**

**Persistence
Through
Challenges**

Creativity

Safety

Trust

**Knowledge
and
Information**

**Human
Judgment**

Tip Sheet: Social Skills

Did you know?

Surveys show one out of every three teens in the U.S. likes talking to AI equally or more than other humans.

What to Notice

If your kids are spending extended periods of time interacting with AI. Spending long periods of time interacting with AI, including chatbots, can lead kids to develop an emotional attachment to a machine.

Conversation Starter

How are conversations with AI different from ones with real people?

Losing the human touch: When AI replaces real interaction

Helping kids build real connection in a digital world

Tips for parents



Did you know?

AI can sound human, but it isn't. AI is designed to imitate natural conversation with politeness, humor, positive feedback, and personality, but it doesn't actually understand feelings or social cues the way people do. It only predicts what to say next.

It is easy to imagine and treat AI as if it is human. Just like naming a stuffed animal or talking to a pet, kids (and adults) instinctively assign AI human qualities—but unlike most toys, AI responds back. This can result in kids forming emotional connections to AI tools. Surveys show one out of every three teens in the U.S. likes talking to AI equally or more than other humans.*

Children need strong human relationships to thrive. When children have strong relationships with the adults in their lives, they are 12 times more likely to flourish.** Talking, listening, and resolving conflict with real people can help kids practice empathy, communication, and cooperation. These are the skills kids need to make and be good friends! They also are important skills for work and life. These skills are weakened when AI becomes a substitute for human connection.

*Talk, Trust, and Trade-Offs: How and Why Teens Use AI Companions by Michael B. Robb and Supreet Mann, 2025.

**Family Resilience and Connection Promote Flourishing Among US Children, Even Amid Adversity by Christina Bethell et al, 2019.

Tip Sheet: Critical Thinking

Did you know?

Research shows that when kids frequently use AI tools to do their work for them, their critical thinking skills weaken or fail to develop.

What to Notice

If your kids are doing work faster but thinking less. When kids finish assignments quickly and can't explain their answers, they may be using AI instead of exercising critical thinking.

Activity

Parents who regularly share with their kids a problem they faced and the thought process they went through to deal with it are helping their kids learn how think through things. Try modeling critical thinking regularly (e.g., a couple times a month).

Helping kids stay thinkers in the age of generative AI

Practicing the skills that make learning stick

Tips for parents



Did you know?

"Cognitive offloading" is when we let technology do the thinking for us. Research shows that when kids frequently use AI tools to do their work for them, their critical thinking skills weaken or fail to develop.*

Critical thinking must be exercised. Critical thinking, one of the key skills that helps us resolve conflicts, manage money, and develop creative solutions, isn't innate. It develops through practice and guidance.

Kids are natural thinkers. Kids' brains are wired for curiosity. They love puzzles, questions, and figuring things out for themselves.

True learning isn't just about completing tasks; it's about the process. Kids learn by practicing. When your kid is assigned an essay, the goal is to practice brainstorming, synthesizing information, building arguments, and revising ideas. If AI does the work for them, they are losing out on learning.

*AI Tools in Society: Impacts on Cognitive Offloading and the Future of Critical Thinking, by Michael Gerlich, 2025.

How to share resources with families

53

Pathway to Families	Messenger or Partner	Examples of Communication
Through schools	Teachers	Parent-teacher conferences, take-home or digital resources
	Media specialists	Newsletters, take-home or digital resources and links, informational meetings with families, school communication apps (Class Dojo, Remind, ParentSquare)
	School leadership	
	Tech/IT Teams	
	School advisories/committees	Workshops, take-home or digital resources and links
	Professional development events	
Through parents	PTAs/PTOs/Parent Councils	Meetings, newsletters, emails, group chats
	Informal and formal parent groups (e.g. classroom parents)	Group chats (SMS, WhatsApp, school apps, etc.), Website and Social media (Facebook, etc.)
	Affinity parent groups	Meetings, newsletters, emails, group chats (SMS, WhatsApp, school apps, etc.)
Through community partners (after-school, extracurricular, etc.)	Community programs (e.g. after school programs, tutoring)	Newsletters, take-home or digital resources and links, informational meetings

Engaging families and school communities

WHAT:

- What information do you and your team need about AI and education?
- What information about AI and education do families most need to know?
- What do you hope families will do once they have this information?

IN WHAT WAY:

- In what way should this information be presented (level of detail, complexity, tone, pressure to act)?

HOW:

- How should this information reach educators, school leaders, and families (through what medium and what messenger)?

What is your plan to engage with families to help them navigate AI use with their kids?



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THANK YOU!

Check out the
full report
here:



Check out the
parent tip
sheets here:



For more information, please reach out to the
Brookings Institution Center for Universal Education
at evenetis@brookings.edu.

contact us

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**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

CENTER ON EDUCATION AND
TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT

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