



# All about artificial intelligence

## Why is everyone talking about artificial intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, is becoming a more regular part of our daily lives, making many tasks easier and quicker. If you've been curious about what AI is, you're not alone. Think of AI as a computer program that learns from information it already has and uses that information to solve problems and create materials. Just like we learn from our experiences, AI learns from the information it's given and the questions (or prompts) it's asked.

You encounter AI in things like your phone's voice assistant, which can answer questions or set reminders. It's behind the suggestions you get on streaming services, recommending shows you might like. AI also works in chatbots on websites and generative AI tools that create written, audio, or visual content.

## Will AI impact my child's learning?

As AI is becoming more common, you may have questions about how AI will impact your child in and out of school. AI may or may not be used in your child's classroom. It's okay to be curious (or uncertain) about changes in technology. It's also important to ask questions about these changes to help you and your child understand how they might impact learning. The good news is that the skills being taught in BC classrooms today are designed to prepare all students with the tools they need to thrive both today and in a future where AI-related skills may be important in many jobs.

As technology changes, students must learn the skills to keep up. The BC curriculum helps students learn the competencies and digital skills they need for today's world. BC's curriculum also teaches the Core Competencies, which are the thinking, personal, and social skills your child needs to ensure that they use technology safely and responsibly. What your child learns today will ensure that they have skills for the future, like digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

## AI terms to know:

- **Algorithms** are like a recipe for a computer. They provide a step-by-step guide for computers, telling them exactly what to do to solve a problem or complete a task.
- **Artificial intelligence (AI)** is a digital tool that uses data to learn, solve problems, and make decisions — things that usually only people can do.
- **Bias in AI** is when the computer makes inaccurate or unfair choices because it learned from incomplete data. It's like learning to play a game but with only some of the rules.
- **Data privacy** is keeping your personal information safe online from others who shouldn't see it.
- **Digital literacy** is the ability to use technology and the internet wisely. It's having the skills to access, understand, evaluate, and share information online.
- **Generative AI** is a technology-based tool that can independently create content, like writing or art, on its own.



## What might my child learn about AI in school?

At school, your child will learn about digital literacy, digital tools, and how to use tech safely and responsibly.

Understanding AI is important in today's world. Teachers will have different ways to share this learning with your child. Most learning is covered in two parts of the curriculum: Career Education and Applied Design, Skills, and Technology. In these subjects, your child will learn to make sure the information they find, and use is reliable. There are other subjects that may also build your child's digital skills. Your child may learn about how digital tools work, how computers make decisions, and how issues like fairness, privacy, and ethics are part of staying safe online. Learning about AI can help students make informed choices about when they may want, or not want, to use AI tools.

## Will AI tools be used in my child's school?

Whether or not AI tools are used in your child's school will vary from classroom to classroom. Some teachers may use AI tools in different ways to support learning. If your child has a disability or diverse ability, it may be decided that an AI tool can be used to support them. If you're curious about how and when AI tools are used in your child's classroom, ask your child's teacher or principal for more information.

When it comes to assignments, some teachers may allow students to use AI tools for specific tasks. However, it's important for students to ask their teachers for permission and guidance before using AI tools in their work. Just like a calculator can be a helpful tool in mathematics, AI may be another kind of tool used in some classrooms.

## How can I encourage safe and responsible use of technology at home?

AI has elements that parents and caregivers should know about, just like with any other digital tool. Privacy is important—and knowing how AI uses personal data, where it's kept, and who gets to see it is the best way to protect your privacy. Sometimes, AI can be biased, unfair, and inaccurate. It's important to be aware of this so you can spot it and help your child do the same.

It's also important to grow your child's digital literacy skills. While teachers will provide some of these learning opportunities at school, if your child is using digital tools, it's equally important to strengthen them at home.

## Why is digital literacy important to my child's learning?

Digital literacy goes beyond just knowing about AI; it's about using all tech wisely. If your child uses digital tools, they should know how to search the internet and to make sure what they find is reliable. They'll also need digital literacy skills to create and share information safely, protect their personal details, use social media wisely, and communicate responsibly. Learning these skills now will help your child make smart choices both online and offline.

## How can I support my child's learning at home?

To help your child use digital tools, which could include AI, safely and responsibly, you can develop their digital literacy skills at home. Here are a few key skills you may want to encourage with your child at home:

- Keeping personal information (like name, age, and address) private online
- Using the internet safely and avoiding websites they should not access
- Recognizing and avoiding online scams
- Knowing what to do when they see something unsafe online
- Thinking about possible effects before sharing online
- Thinking carefully about what they see online and understanding that AI can change pictures, videos, audio recordings, and words
- Knowing that AI tools might make mistakes or be biased, unfair, and inaccurate
- Understanding that using other people's work without permission (plagiarism) is not okay
- Mentioning where they sourced information from if they used AI tools for their schoolwork

## Contact Us



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