

Family Conversation Starter Cards

AI Topics to Discuss Together • Print, Cut & Talk • All Ages

How to Use: Print these cards on card stock, cut them out, and put them in a jar or stack. Pick one at dinner, on a car journey, or during family time. There are no wrong answers; the goal is to have a conversation!

Everyday AI

“Hey, did you know your phone uses AI? What do you think it does with AI?”

Talk about: voice assistants, autocorrect, photo filters, face unlock, maps

“What would happen if all AI was switched off for a day? What would change?”

Talk about: search engines, navigation, social media, online shopping, streaming

“Have you ever noticed that ads seem to know what you’re thinking about?”

Talk about: targeted advertising, cookies, data collection, how ad algorithms work

“Do you think Siri/Alexa is listening to us all the time? Should we worry?”

Talk about: wake words, privacy, data storage, always-on microphones

“What’s the most useful thing AI does for our family?”

Talk about: navigation, weather forecasts, translation, health apps

Safety & Privacy

“If an AI chatbot asked you for our home address, what would you say?”

Talk about: personal information, what’s safe to share, stranger danger online

“Have you ever seen something online that you thought might be fake?”

Talk about: deepfakes, misinformation, fact-checking, trusting sources

“Do you know what data your favourite app collects about you?”

Talk about: privacy settings, terms of service, data rights, Children’s Code

“What would you do if someone sent you a video that looked real but seemed wrong?”

Talk about: deepfake detection, telling an adult, reporting, not sharing

“Should you tell your friends’ secrets to an AI chatbot? Why or why not?”

Talk about: conversations stored on servers, human reviewers, privacy boundaries

Ethics & Fairness

“Is it cheating to use AI to do your homework? What if you use it to HELP?”

Talk about: learning vs completing, academic honesty, when AI help is OK

“If AI makes a mistake that hurts someone, who should be blamed?”

Talk about: developers, companies, users, regulation, accountability

“Should AI be allowed to create art? Write books? Compose music?”

Talk about: creativity, copyright, human artists, the value of human-made things

“Do you think AI treats everyone fairly? Can a computer be biased?”

Talk about: training data, historical bias, face recognition, hiring algorithms

“If a self-driving car has to choose between two bad options, who decides?”

Talk about: the trolley problem, moral decisions, programming ethics

Future & Fun

“What job do you want when you grow up? Do you think AI will change it?”

Talk about: future careers, new jobs AI might create, skills that matter

“If you could build any AI, what would it do?”

Talk about: problem-solving, creativity, what problems need solving

“Would you rather have an AI best friend or a human best friend? Why?”

Talk about: empathy, understanding, real connection, AI limitations

“Do you think AI will ever be smarter than ALL humans?”

Talk about: narrow vs general AI, consciousness, what intelligence means

“If you were Prime Minister, what ONE rule would you make about AI?”

Talk about: regulation, safety, children’s rights, responsible innovation

Deeper Thinking

“Can AI understand what it writes, or is it just predicting the next word?”

Talk about: understanding vs pattern-matching, consciousness, the Chinese Room thought experiment

“Is a photo taken by AI “real”? Is an AI painting “art”?”

Talk about: what makes something real, creativity, human expression

“Your data is worth money to companies. Should they pay YOU for it?”

Talk about: data economy, fairness, consent, who benefits from personal data

“Would the world be better or worse without AI? Why?”

Talk about: medical breakthroughs, accessibility, risks, dependence on technology

“What do you wish grown-ups understood about AI and your generation?”

Talk about: digital natives, generational differences, mutual learning

Tips for Great Family AI Conversations

Create a safe space: There are no wrong answers. Every opinion is valid and worth discussing.

Listen more than lecture: Ask follow-up questions. Let young people share their experiences; they often know more about AI in daily life than adults!

Share your own uncertainty: It's okay to say "I don't know, let's look it up together." Modelling curiosity is powerful.

Connect to real life: Use examples from YOUR family's devices, apps, and experiences.

Don't panic: AI is a tool. Like any tool, it can be used well or poorly. Focus on building skills, not fear.

Make it regular: One card a week at dinner is better than a one-time lecture. Drip-feed understanding over time.

Act on what you learn: After a conversation, take one action: check privacy settings, update passwords, try fact-checking a claim together.

Include everyone: Grandparents, younger siblings, everyone has a perspective on AI worth hearing.

Remember: The best protection for children isn't blocking technology; it's building understanding. Regular, open conversations about AI give young people the critical thinking skills they need to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.