

Kids' Learning with AI



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I was born in 1981, which puts me just on the cusp of generations. I'm at the tail end of the Gen X generation by some timelines and right at the beginning of the Millennial generation on others. Some sociologists even label people born within a few years of my birthday as Xennials, a microgeneration to mark the small and transitional period during which I was born. Personally, I feel that the other Xennials and I got the best of both worlds. We experienced the care-free and independent lifestyle of the Gen Xers, but I got to live my teenage years as the world shifted into the fully digital age. This means I also have a blend of characteristics from the two generations: independent and adaptive. I am also adventurous, creative, tech-savvy, and plugged into the idea that the world is accessible to me, both in terms of information and in opportunity.

Is Technology Hurting Our Kids?

My daughter was born in 2018, a time much different than the early years of the eighties. She is a member of Gen Alpha. Her life is fully immersed in technology and she is going to come of age in a time when she and her peers are at risk of losing many soft skills and interpersonal skills, including critical thinking and problem-solving. One of the challenges this generation faces is the sheer amount of information and technological capability available in her pocket. Some schools are fully tech-based. This is a characteristic that used to be touted as a unique feature at a school just a decade ago. Now, experts are questioning whether the amount of time students spend on technology is advantageous in the long run. Students are learning 21st century skills, but are they losing something else that is hugely important to success in life? Are they losing their ability to identify, think through, and solve their own problems without the support of technology? The recent introduction of AI into education may further exacerbate this situation for our children.

Balancing Technology Use at Home

Per my previous posts, I am a proponent of technology in education. I have written about the benefits of AI in our lives, as well as in the lives of students. I still hold to those beliefs about technology. My goal today is to advocate for a better balance in our schools and in the lives of our children. Instead of having our kids go from using tech all day in school to staring at our screens in the living room at home, make sure your

children have time at home to solve problems. Play board games that require problem solving and strategic thinking. Include your children in solving everyday problems at home. Also have your kids help you cook and figure out how to fix their own inevitable mistakes in the process. Technology is a wonderful tool. As with most things in our lives, we need to ensure our approach is one of moderation. Technology will continue to be one of our greatest tools and resources. It will also continue to present new social and ethical problems as it develops. As parents, let's make sure our kids learn to use new tools while also providing opportunities for our kids to engage, socialize, and problem-solve using the tools that were naturally developed in the world of previous generations.