PARENT ONLY | AGE GUIDANCE

Match the talk to your child

The age bands are teaching adaptations, not product eligibility or legal thresholds. Adjust for understanding, accessibility, communication needs, and comfort.

Under 5 - play, not writing

An adult leads. Use puppets for Talk 1, pretend pictures for Talk 2, a talking toy for Talk 3, and object sorting for Talk 4. Practise “Ask my grown-up.”

Ages 5-7 - read aloud

Practise a pretend callback, asking before sharing a picture, saying “I can stop,” and accepting a hint rather than an answer. Adults manage devices and approvals.

Ages 8-12 - explain a safety step

Invite the child to describe an independent verification, sort privacy categories, identify guilt or secrecy, check a claim in a book, and name a second trusted adult.

Ages 13-15 - discuss consequences and consent

Use each talk’s optional teen challenge: fake school messages, non-consensual image edits, chatbot pressure, invented sources, and school rules. Explain supervision openly.

Ages 16-17 - practise independent judgment

Invite the teen to lead verification, assess data handling and permissions, identify when a real professional is needed, show unaided learning, and negotiate growing autonomy with clear help routes.

REMEMBER

Check current minimum age, adult-permission requirements, and local rules for the specific product. No child needs an AI tool to participate. Nothing here asks a child to disclose a real incident.

PARENT ONLY | TOOL APPROVAL WORKSHEET

One product - one decision

Use this before allowing a new AI feature, then revisit after major changes. Complete without recording children's accounts, passwords, contact details or identifying information.

Which general feature are we considering, and what benefit is expected? (Examples: "reading tutor," "AI search.")

The checks

- [ ] Age and consent rules checked against the current official product information.
- [ ] Data stored, retention/deletion claims, use for training, and sharing understood.
- [ ] Permissions, purchases, publishing, and connected tools limited to what is necessary.
- [ ] Safety, reporting, adult controls, and account security reviewed.
- [ ] Alternatives considered, including offline practice or adult-mediated use.

Our decision: approve with conditions / do not approve / reconsider later. What would change the decision?

THE CHILD-FACING EXPLANATION

"Here is why we do or do not use this feature, what information stays private, when we stop, and which real people can help."