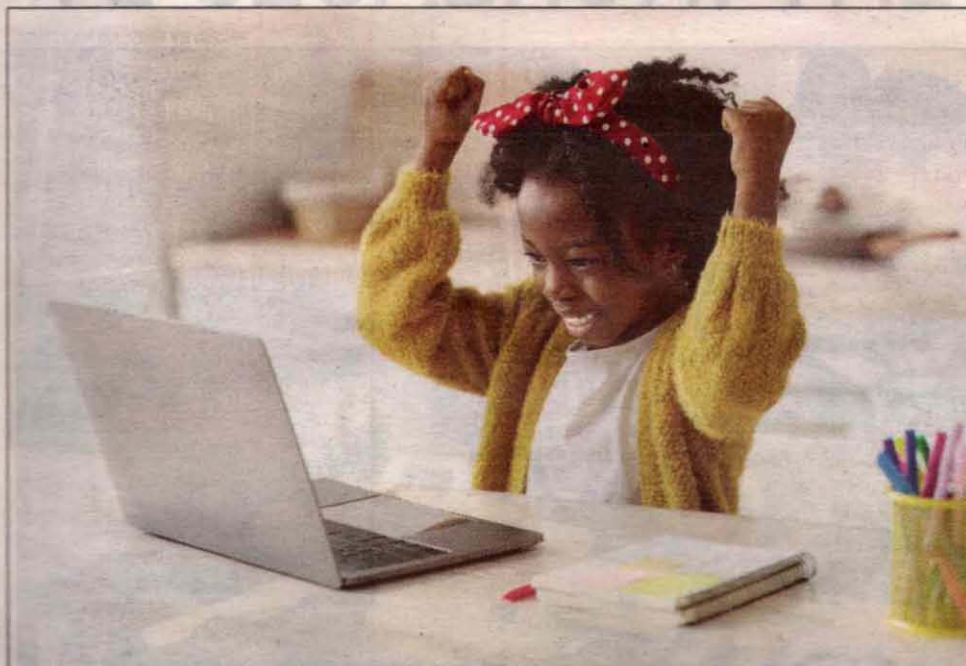


# WHY WE SHOULD GUIDE CHILDREN ON AI USE

## DANGERS OF AI



**PARENTING**  
**DICKSON TUMURAMWE**



**A child using a laptop. AI should supplement effort, not replace it**

**T**echnology has quietly become part of our children's everyday existence. From the moment they wake up to the time they go to bed, Artificial Intelligence (AI) influences how they learn, play, and interact. Whether it's a voice assistant answering their questions, a learning application adjusting to their pace, or a video platform recommending content, AI is everywhere. The question for today's parents is not whether it exists, but whether our children should fully embrace it, and how.

### THE NEW DIGITAL CHILDHOOD

Our children are growing up in a world very different from the one we knew. We used to search for information in books and libraries; they simply ask an app or a chatbot. AI can now explain complex concepts, generate essays, or create artwork in seconds. It's almost impossible to keep children away from it because it is embedded in

education, entertainment, and daily communication.

The challenge for parents, teachers and faith leaders is to guide children to use AI wisely, without losing their humanity. When used well, AI can be an incredible learning partner. It inspires curiosity and creativity, turning learning into a more engaging and personalised experience. Learners can use it to design projects, explore ideas, or practice new skills.

It also prepares them for a future heavily shaped by technology. Every profession, from medicine to farming, will depend on people who understand how to use AI ethically and intelligently.

In that sense, allowing our children to explore it under

guidance can help them become more innovative, adaptable and confident in a changing world.

Their hearts must remain compassionate, humble, and teachable, not mechanical and by the coldness of algorithms.

### PARENTS' ROLE IN AI WORLD

Parents cannot stop AI from entering their children's lives, but we can shape how it is used. The first step is to be informed. Many parents fear technology because they do not understand it. Take time to explore AI tools yourself, so you can guide your children with confidence and curiosity.

### SETTING CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children need to know that AI should supplement effort,

not replace it. Encourage them to use these tools to clarify concepts or inspire ideas, and enhance understanding, but not to do the work for them. Let them know that wisdom still comes from reflection, practice, not automation.

### INTEGRITY MATTERS

Using AI to cheat on assignments or copy other people's work is still dishonesty. Teach children to apply the same moral values online that you expect offline.

They should not use AI to create data that is to destroy one's life. Remind them that their creativity and originality are gifts from God, and AI should help them express those gifts, not suppress them.

### ROLE OF CHURCH AND SCHOOLS

Schools and universities hold a critical role in preparing the next generation for a future shaped by AI. They must move beyond simply banning or ignoring it and instead teach digital ethics, critical thinking, and responsible innovation. Teachers should encourage students to question AI-generated content and verify facts. This builds discernment and intellectual independence. Churches and schools should not remain silent in this conversation, but become centres of digital discipleship; places where children learn to think critically, use technology responsibly, and uphold truth in a world of automation. Our homes must become spaces where digital literacy and spiritual maturity grow together.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial" (1 Corinthians 10:23). The same principle applies to technology. Access does not equal approval. Just because something is available doesn't mean it's good for the soul.

### RAISING WISE DIGITAL STEWARDS

AI is here to stay, and it will only grow smarter. Our responsibility is to raise children who are not enslaved by it but empowered to use it wisely. They must be taught to think critically, act ethically, and remain rooted in timeless values.

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Despite being helpful to quicken children's learning process, Artificial Intelligence (AI) can also tempt them to stop thinking independently.

When Children rely on AI to write essays or to solve problems, they might lose the ability to reason critically in developing original ideas.

Lack of accuracy could also exist because AI systems are not perfect and if children accept everything AI provides without discernment, they may absorb errors, thus missing critical thinking and judgment.

Privacy is also a serious concern given that AI tools collect personal data from users that can be misused. A child may unknowingly share sensitive information that could be exploited by evil people, landing your child into trouble.

Emotional detachment may occur due to over-exposure to technology. AI will affect emotional and social development when screens replace face-to-face human interactions and relationships. Empathy and compassion can fade. Children risk becoming indifferent to human feelings becoming comfortable talking to machines which could lead to emotional isolation and weakening of family bonds.