

RED LIGHT *AI Companions and Toys*

AI should not be used as a friend, babysitter, or teacher for babies and toddlers. Adults should be concerned about children's data privacy and security when using these toys.

Avoid

- AI "friend" toys—like dolls or stuffed animals
- Child-facing chatbots
- Toys that collect children's voices or conversations in the home

Takeaway: Young children need human relationships to grow and thrive. AI toys and chatbots crowd out the back-and-forth play and conversation that help children learn.

YELLOW LIGHT *AI for Learning*

There's no evidence that AI helps babies and toddlers learn. For children 3 years and up, there is little evidence that AI helps with learning.

Possible Examples:

- a story or science activity where AI provides prompts for discussion
- design and content that promotes learning, not just mindless watching.

Use only when there is:

- Evidence the tool is effective for children in this age group
- A clear learning goal
- Age-appropriate content
- Design and content that promotes learning, not just mindless watching

Takeaway: Children under three do not benefit from AI learning tools. For children aged 3 and up, use only when the AI tool is designed and tested with this age range. An adult should be nearby and involved.

GREEN LIGHT *AI that Helps Adults Behind the Scenes*

AI applications that streamline time-consuming tasks can help adults be more present with children. But: Humans should always review the outputs from AI and keep decision-making authority. It's critical to ensure that child/family data and privacy is also protected. Relationships should be **supported, not replaced**.

Good uses:

- Lifting the administrative load
- Assisting with developmental screening/diagnosis
- Translating information for families
- Reviewing student/classroom data to guide professionals

Takeaway: AI can help adults care for children. But humans must remain the decision-makers.