

# Guidance on AI and Children (v3): Checklist

10 requirements and 48 recommendations



## 1. Ensure regulatory frameworks, oversight and compliance for child-centred AI

- Review, update and, where necessary, develop comprehensive AI-related regulatory frameworks to integrate child rights.
- Establish – or assign responsibility to existing – oversight or regulatory bodies to ensure compliance with AI principles and laws and set up support mechanisms for redress.
- Ensure that government AI systems comply with AI-related laws and child rights law.

## 2. Ensure safety for children

- Mandate child rights impact assessments of AI systems in AI strategies, policies, laws and regulations.
- Continuously assess and monitor AI's impact on children throughout the entire AI development life cycle, and disclose results.
- Require testing of AI systems for safety, security and robustness.
- Eliminate harms and mitigate risks to children of harmful and illegal content that is generated, disseminated and/or amplified by AI, including mis/disinformation, cyberbullying and scams.
- Prevent AI-enabled crimes against children such as child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Address risks from AI-enabled chatbots or companions.
- Protect children from the harmful use of AI in armed conflict and cyber operations.
- Leverage the use of AI systems, where appropriate, to promote children's safety and support those protecting children.

## 3. Protect children's data and privacy

- Responsibly handle data about and for children.
- Adopt a privacy-by-design approach.
- Protect groups.
- Promote children's data agency.

## 4. Ensure non-discrimination and fairness for children

- Actively support children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations so that they may benefit from AI systems.
- Reduce prejudicial bias against children, or certain groups of children, which leads to discrimination and exclusion.

## 5. Provide transparency, explainability and accountability for children

- AI systems should clearly warn children and caregivers upfront that they are interacting with an AI, not a human.
- Explicitly address children when promoting explainability and transparency of AI systems, and prevent anthropomorphizing such systems.
- Use age-appropriate language to describe AI.
- Design, develop and deploy AI systems so that they protect and support child users according to legal and policy frameworks, regardless of children's understandings of the system.

## 6. Respect human and child rights through responsible AI practice

- Ensure respect for children's rights across all digital business activities involving AI.
- Ensure a rights-based AI value chain for all inputs ranging from data to hardware and eliminate child labour and exploitation at all stages.

- Ensure capacity-building on AI and child rights for top management and those in the AI life cycle, including designers, developers and researchers, and commit to action.
- Capitalize on customers' demand for trusted and transparent AI solutions for children.

## **7. Support children's best interests, development and well-being**

- Prioritize how AI can benefit children, in particular in AI policies, laws and systems.
- Develop and apply a child rights-by-design approach.
- Integrate metrics and processes to support children's well-being in the use of AI.
- Address negative environmental impacts from AI and digital infrastructure.
- Leverage AI systems to support and increase environmental sustainability, including by ensuring a sustainable AI value chain.

## **8. Ensure inclusion of and for children**

- Support meaningful child participation, both in AI policies and governance, and in design, development and deployment processes.
- Adopt an inclusive design approach when developing AI products that will be used by children or impact them.
- Strive for diversity amongst those who design, develop, implement, research, regulate and oversee AI systems that children may use or be impacted by, including those collecting and processing AI data.

## **9. Prepare and skill children for present and future developments in AI**

- Develop or update formal and informal education programmes for AI literacy and strengthen life skills and technical skills needed to flourish in an AI world, including in the future workplace.
- Train, equip and support teachers on AI to put them at the centre, not replace them.
- Provide guidance to teachers, schools and education departments to effectively procure and deploy AI and mitigate the risks.
- Leverage the use of AI systems in education, when it is appropriate and based on evidence.
- Develop and promote AI-related awareness campaigns for parents, caregivers and society as a whole.
- Manage the impact of AI on the future of work to uphold children's rights.

## **10. Create an enabling environment for child-centred AI**

- Support infrastructure development to address the digital divide and aim for equitable sharing of the benefits of AI.
- Invest, mobilize resources and create incentives for child-centred AI policies and programmes.
- Support research on AI for and with children across the system's life cycle.
- Engage in digital cooperation in the public interest and for upholding children's rights.
- Foster a multi-stakeholder approach both in government and in business practices.
- Support efforts towards interoperable AI, data and digital governance that provide equal opportunities and protections for children everywhere.

### **Cross-cutting considerations**

- Adapt to the national or local context.
- Employ foresight to better anticipate and govern AI.
- Be future ready.

Download the UNICEF Guidance on AI and Children at:

[www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/policy-guidance-ai-children](http://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/policy-guidance-ai-children)