# Google prepares Gemini AI assistant tailored for children under 13 with built-in parental controls



Google is preparing to launch a child-friendly version of its Gemini AI assistant, designed specifically for children under the age of 13. This development was revealed through an email sent by Google to parents, highlighting the company’s intention to create a controlled and safe environment for younger users to interact with AI technology. The announcement was initially reported by 9to5Google.

Gemini for Kids aims to serve as a digital tool to assist children with homework, answer casual questions, and encourage creativity, such as helping with writing tasks. Importantly, Google plans to integrate parental controls through its Family Link service, allowing parents to monitor and manage their child’s activity on the app. According to the email from Google, parents will also have the option to set Gemini as the default assistant on their child’s Android device, enabling a seamless and supervised experience.

Google emphasised that while Gemini can be helpful, it is not infallible and can sometimes provide inaccurate information. They advised parental supervision to ensure children verify facts and use the AI’s output as a starting point rather than definitive answers. For example, Google humorously pointed out the possibility of errors by noting, “if Gemini tells your child that Abe Lincoln invented peanut butter, hopefully they will ask you before they turn in their essay."

The introduction of Gemini for Kids is framed as a move to familiarise children with AI technology in a structured setting, effectively offering “digital training wheels.” This approach seeks to help younger users develop safe and informed AI usage habits that could persist into adulthood.

Additional safety features are embedded into the app, notably powered by Google's Family Link platform, which provides parents with tools to set limits on activities and monitor interactions. The system is designed to detect inappropriate requests, such as attempts to misuse the AI for assignments or engage in activities like betting, and alert parents accordingly.

In educational contexts, the AI will come with further safeguards when accessed via school-issued accounts. School administrators will have the ability to define usage policies and oversee interactions through the Google Admin Console, ensuring responsible use in academic environments.

This child-specific version of Gemini represents a strategic step by Google to embed its AI assistant broadly within family settings, potentially establishing long-term user trust and loyalty. The company’s initiative positions Gemini not only as a tool for learning and creative expression but also as an introduction to AI technology that children may continue to use into adulthood.

Google has assured parents that the Gemini for Kids app will operate without advertisements or data collection from child users, focusing instead on a safe and educational experience. The company did not explicitly address the implications of familiarising children early with its AI ecosystem, an effect that some observers note could foster future brand affinity.

The Tech Radar report notes the significance of managing the introduction of AI to children, highlighting concerns about safeguarding their critical thinking development and emotional well-being. While Gemini is not intended to replace genuine emotional support, the AI’s use by children in navigating social or personal issues remains a realistic possibility.

Overall, Google’s forthcoming Gemini for Kids app reflects a growing effort to integrate AI into everyday lives from an early age while attempting to balance educational benefits with parental oversight and safety measures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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