# Teaching children to ask the right questions in the age of AI



In an age increasingly dominated by artificial intelligence, the landscape of education is witnessing a transformative shift. Traditionally, learning revolved around the memorisation of facts and the mere pursuit of answers. However, as AI technologies become ubiquitous—facilitating instantaneous access to vast reservoirs of information—the imperative for future generations is evolving. The pressing challenge is no longer simply to find answers but to ask the right questions, an endeavour that necessitates a fundamental rethinking of educational paradigms.

At the heart of this transformation is the recognition that knowledge has become less about rote memorisation and more about critical evaluation and innovative inquiry. Educational tools such as ChatGPT and Google’s Bard exemplify this trend, highlighting a pivotal change: the value of discernment in engaging with information sources. Educators are now called to focus on teaching students not what to think but how to think. This approach will cultivate inquisitive thinkers who are not just passive receivers of information but are equipped to explore, question, and critically assess the knowledge available to them.

Asking the right questions fosters a range of skills including problem-solving, creativity, and innovative thinking. History has shown us that profound advancements often emerge not from answers but from the questions themselves. For instance, the evolution of concepts like the internet stemmed from crucial inquiries into connectivity and information sharing. Einstein’s exploration of relativity began with a thought-provoking question regarding the speed of light. This highlights the necessity to encourage children to formulate precise and expansive questions, enabling them to unlock the full potential of AI as a powerful learning tool rather than a crutch for information retrieval.

To instil this art of inquiry, educators must integrate inquiry-based learning strategies that promote curiosity and critical thinking. Techniques like the Socratic method encourage students to delve deeper into subjects, challenging assumptions and enhancing reasoning skills. For example, rather than simply asking about the concept of climate change, educators could provoke students to explore, “How might human activities influence climate patterns, and what solutions might we find?”

Furthermore, fostering a learning environment where students feel safe to express their questions is crucial. Research indicates that curiosity can wane as children progress through formal education, often due to rigid curriculum structures that favour memorisation over exploration. Schools should facilitate opportunities for students to engage with their interests, assess the reliability of information, and embrace uncertainty—an essential component of critical thinking.

Parental involvement in this journey is equally vital. Engaging children in conversations about responsible AI usage is essential. As children interact with AI-driven technologies early on, parents can guide them in discerning information and cultivating their innate curiosity. By modelling curiosity and encouraging questions at home, parents can reinforce the lessons taught in school, fostering a lifelong appetite for inquiry and learning.

Moreover, teaching students frameworks for formulating questions, such as Bloom's Taxonomy, equips them to develop higher-order thinking skills. This pedagogical approach aligns seamlessly with the demands of an AI-enhanced future. As students learn to differentiate between basic recall questions and those that stimulate deeper understanding, they will be better prepared to navigate the complexities of the information age.

Ultimately, redefining education to prioritise the art of questioning will prepare children to not only adapt to but also shape an AI-driven future. As the landscape of knowledge continues to evolve, those who hone the skill of inquiry will lead the way in innovation, policy-making, and societal progress. Schools must transition from mere knowledge transmission to dynamic knowledge exploration, empowering students as inquisitive thinkers capable of tackling the challenges that lie ahead.

Thus, as we rethink educational frameworks, our objective should be clear: to nurture a generation of thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers—armed not just with facts but with a resilient and curious mindset that will enable them to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://kashmirreader.com/2025/05/25/teaching-children-to-ask-right-questions-in-the-age-of-ai/), [[3]](https://time.com/5941608/schools-questions-fostering-curiousity/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://kashmirreader.com/2025/05/25/teaching-children-to-ask-right-questions-in-the-age-of-ai/), [[2]](https://www.tomsguide.com/ai/i-caught-my-tween-using-chatgpt-heres-what-surprised-me-most), [[4]](https://time.com/6310886/parents-kids-ai-safety-essay/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://www.whizkidz.com.au/strategies-for-encouraging-children-to-ask-questions/), [[6]](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-cultivating-curiosity-by-deliberately-teaching-students-how-to-ask-questions/2016/10)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://time.com/6310886/parents-kids-ai-safety-essay/), [[7]](https://time.com/6216722/how-ai-tech-harms-children/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://kashmirreader.com/2025/05/25/teaching-children-to-ask-right-questions-in-the-age-of-ai/), [[3]](https://time.com/5941608/schools-questions-fostering-curiousity/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.tomsguide.com/ai/i-caught-my-tween-using-chatgpt-heres-what-surprised-me-most), [[3]](https://time.com/5941608/schools-questions-fostering-curiousity/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://kashmirreader.com/2025/05/25/teaching-children-to-ask-right-questions-in-the-age-of-ai/), [[6]](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-cultivating-curiosity-by-deliberately-teaching-students-how-to-ask-questions/2016/10)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://kashmirreader.com/2025/05/25/teaching-children-to-ask-right-questions-in-the-age-of-ai/), [[2]](https://www.tomsguide.com/ai/i-caught-my-tween-using-chatgpt-heres-what-surprised-me-most)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://kashmirreader.com/2025/05/25/teaching-children-to-ask-right-questions-in-the-age-of-ai/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.tomsguide.com/ai/i-caught-my-tween-using-chatgpt-heres-what-surprised-me-most> - A parent reflects on discovering their tween son using ChatGPT, highlighting the evolving role of AI in children's learning. The child uses AI to satisfy curiosity with questions like 'Can rabbits swim?' rather than for schoolwork, valuing AI’s quick, direct answers over traditional search engines. While the parent feels relief at the productive use of AI, concerns arise about misinformation, lack of source citation, and overreliance on instant answers. The article emphasizes the importance of teaching responsible AI usage, encouraging critical thinking, and maintaining innate curiosity in children.
3. <https://time.com/5941608/schools-questions-fostering-curiousity/> - This article discusses the decline in children's natural curiosity upon entering formal schooling and suggests methods to nurture their inquisitiveness. It notes that while toddlers exhibit a strong desire to learn through constant questioning, this curiosity diminishes in school due to conventional educational practices focused on rote learning. The piece advocates for schools to allow students to explore their interests, evaluate information reliability, and appreciate the pursuit of knowledge. Teachers are encouraged to model curiosity and comfort with uncertainty to develop students' critical thinking skills and a lifelong thirst for knowledge.
4. <https://time.com/6310886/parents-kids-ai-safety-essay/> - This article emphasizes the necessity for parents to guide their children in navigating AI technology responsibly. With children encountering AI from a young age through devices like Siri, Alexa, and AI toys, active parental guidance becomes crucial. The piece suggests initiating conversations about AI's educational benefits, potential dangers, emotional impacts, and the influence of algorithms on the information AI provides. It recommends teaching children discernment and critical thinking through tools like the Neurocycle—a five-step mind-management process—to help them develop healthy mental habits and manage AI interactions effectively.
5. <https://www.whizkidz.com.au/strategies-for-encouraging-children-to-ask-questions/> - Whiz Kidz Early Learning Centre outlines the importance of fostering children's curiosity by encouraging them to ask questions. The article highlights that questioning helps children develop problem-solving skills, expand their vocabulary, build confidence in expressing thoughts, and develop a lifelong love for learning. Effective strategies include creating a safe and supportive environment, modeling curiosity and questioning, encouraging open-ended questions, using books and storytelling, engaging in hands-on exploration, praising and validating their questions, and encouraging peer discussions.
6. <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-cultivating-curiosity-by-deliberately-teaching-students-how-to-ask-questions/2016/10> - This opinion piece discusses the lack of emphasis on teaching students how to formulate and ask their own questions, a fundamental skill often overlooked in education. It introduces the Question Formulation Technique (QFT), developed by The Right Question Institute, as a strategy to help students generate, improve, and use their own questions. The article emphasizes that teaching students how to ask questions can lead to deeper and more meaningful learning, promoting critical thinking and student engagement.
7. <https://time.com/6216722/how-ai-tech-harms-children/> - This article examines the potential harms of AI-powered technology on children, highlighting a study by the University of Washington and Johns Hopkins that found AI-driven robots can perpetuate racism and sexism. It discusses how algorithmic biases in technologies like search engines, social media, and video games can transmit harmful stereotypes to children, who may absorb misleading information about race and gender. The piece underscores the need for greater regulation and accountability of AI systems to prevent the dissemination of biased information to young users.