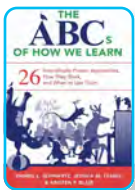


Empowering Young Learners: A Parent's Guide to Education in the Age of AI

Explore ways to enhance your child's learning experience with this curated collection of books, learning apps, age-appropriate AI activities, and motivation techniques designed to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and nurture a love of discovery.

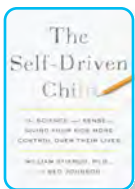
From MacKenzie's Bookshelf

Essential reading for parents seeking to understand effective learning approaches and create supportive environments for your child's growth.



The ABCs of How We Learn

This accessible guide, based on a popular Stanford course, translates cutting-edge learning science into 26 practical strategies you can immediately apply at home to support your child's educational growth.



The Self-Driven Child

This insightful resource combines brain science and behavioral therapy to show you how to foster your child's sense of autonomy and resilience—essential skills that help children develop the internal drive needed for long-term success and wellbeing.

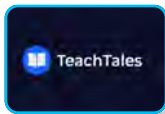


Austin Scholar

Learn directly from an 18-year-old who achieved a perfect SAT score and top university admissions—all without traditional schooling.

Building Your Digital Toolkit

Start with these thoughtfully selected apps to enhance learning—the first set in a growing collection of tools we'll share to support your child's educational journey.



TeachTales

An interactive storytelling app that adapts to your child's reading level, allowing them to craft personalized adventures with familiar characters—building reading comprehension, decision-making skills, and creativity while making literacy feel like play.



Khan Academy

A comprehensive, free learning platform offering personalized practice exercises, instructional videos, and detailed progress tracking across subjects from math and science to humanities—suitable for all ages and perfect for supplementing school curriculum or exploring new topics.



Duolingo

An engaging language learning app that uses game-like lessons, adaptive exercises, and friendly competition to help your child develop skills in dozens of languages—making daily practice fun and effective for beginners through advanced learners.

Using AI The Right Way

AI can be an amazing tool -- if you use it to think **with** you, not **for** you.

If you're using AI to shortcut learning, you're cheating. If you're not using it to build, create, and explore, you're cheating yourself.

Use AI to spark ideas, solve problems, and get curious!
That's where the real learning happens.

Elementary (Ages 5-10)

Learn About Your Favorite Things

Guide your child to ask simple questions to [ChatABC](#) about topics they're curious about; for example, ask about the habitat of their favorite animal, or the history of their favorite sport, or where their favorite food comes from.

Describe What You See

Explore daily prompt challenges with [TwinPics](#): A fun game where kids describe colorful pictures for the AI to recreate—helping them learn how to give clear instructions while improving their observation skills and understanding how AI works.

Middle School (Ages 11-13)

Explain-It-Differently Challenge

Use tools like [ChatGPT](#) or [ChatABC](#) to help your child understand tricky concepts from school — like fractions, the water cycle, or historical events — by asking the AI to explain it in different ways: as a story, a step-by-step guide, a metaphor, or even using emojis. Let them decide which version made it click.

Design Your Own Project

Have your child choose a topic they're excited about — like space, ancient civilizations, or their favorite sport — and use AI to help create a comic strip, infographic, or short illustrated story about it.

Then use tools like [ChatGPT](#) for script ideas and [AutoDraw](#) or a drawing app to bring their project to life. This combines research, storytelling, and visual design — all powered by their creativity.



Tips For Helping Your Child Use AI Responsibly:

1. *If you wouldn't ask a friend to do something for you, you shouldn't ask AI to do it for you, either. For instance, don't ask a friend to write your entire paper, but you might ask them for feedback on your idea.*
2. *If you wouldn't ask your parent or teacher about something, don't ask AI about it, either.*

High School (Ages 14-18)

SAT Prep & Essay Coaching

Teens can use AI to generate practice SAT-style reading questions or to review their essays. Encourage them to write their first draft, then ask [ChatGPT](#) or [Claude](#) for suggestions to strengthen clarity, structure, or tone — just like a writing coach would.

Debate Both Sides

Pick a relevant issue — like AI in schools or the impact of social media — and have [ChatGPT](#) or [Claude](#) outline arguments on both sides. Teens can use this to develop their own opinions, practice writing persuasive arguments, or even stage a mini family debate.



Looking for more?

Austin Scholar issues [#167](#) and [#168](#) are chock full of ideas!



Motivation That Lasts

Practical strategies to help your child stay curious, confident, and engaged in learning — even when it's hard.

Make It Real

Kids stay motivated when learning connects to real life. If your child is learning about money, give them a small budget and let them plan a grocery trip. Reading about animals? Visit a local shelter or nature center. Even everyday tasks like cooking or driving can turn into conversations about math, science, and decision-making.

Let Them Choose

Offering choices gives kids ownership — and ownership builds motivation. Let them pick between two learning apps, decide when they want to tackle homework, or choose the topic of a creative project. The more voice they have, the more invested they become.

It's OK to Not Get It... Yet

Getting stuck, hitting roadblocks, and trying again — it's all part of how real learning happens.

When your child faces something hard, remind them that struggle doesn't mean they're doing it wrong. It means they're stretching. Talk about what they're figuring out and how far they've come. Learning isn't about getting it perfect — it's about sticking with it.

Create a Simple Learning Ritual

Kids thrive on structure — even small, consistent routines can make a big difference. Set aside 20 minutes a day for focused exploration: reading, tinkering, asking questions, or using a learning app. Pair it with a snack or a cozy corner to make it something they look forward to.

Let's Keep The Conversation Going!

Got a tip that's working for your kid? A fun way you've made learning stick? We'd love to hear it! [Join MacKenzie's Future of Education Facebook Group](#) to swap ideas, ask questions, and connect with other parents figuring this out too.

Want to explore big ideas about the future of education and stay connected with a growing community of changemakers? Follow MacKenzie for fresh insights, updates, and behind-the-scenes looks at how real change is happening in education.



INSTAGRAM

Inspiration, real talk, and highlights from innovative classrooms



FACEBOOK

Join the Future of Education parent community



X (TWITTER)

Ideas, questions, and conversations that challenge the status quo



SUBSTACK

Essays on learning, purpose, and what school could be