

AI and Screen-based Technologies for Neurodivergent Kids

While games can be a great way to develop executive functions, AI and technology offers many other opportunities for learning and growth. For neurodivergent children, with their unique strengths and diverse learning styles, these technologies hold particular promise as adaptive and personalized tools. Moving beyond simple gameplay, AI-powered applications and various technological solutions can provide targeted support across academic subjects, enhance organizational skills, facilitate communication, offer essential assistive technologies, and even help navigate social understanding in new ways. Let's explore some concrete and innovative ways to use AI and technology to support your child's education and development beyond just playing games, delving into resources and strategies that can truly cater to their individual needs and unlock their potential.



AI, Educational Apps and Websites:

There are countless AI tools, educational apps, and websites available for children of all ages. For neurodivergent learners, AI-driven platforms and applications can provide personalized, adaptive learning experiences that cater to

diverse learning styles and paces, making complex concepts more accessible and engaging. These resources can help with:

- **Math:** AI tutoring tools, apps that teach basic math skills, algebra, geometry, and more.
- **Reading:** Apps that help with phonics, reading comprehension, and vocabulary.
- **Science:** Websites with interactive simulations, videos, and experiments.
- **History:** Apps and websites with historical information, timelines, and maps.
- **Language Learning:** Apps that teach foreign languages through games and activities.

Tips for Choosing Educational Resources:

Finding educational apps or websites can make a significant difference in your child's learning experience. For parents with neurodivergent kids, this means looking beyond what's popular to find resources that offer the specific features needed to truly engage the child in education and aid their unique development.

- **Look for reputable sources:** Choose apps and websites from trusted educational organizations or publishers.
- **Read reviews:** See what other parents and educators have to say about the resource.
- **Try it out yourself:** Before introducing it to your child, explore the app or website to make sure it's appropriate and engaging.
- **Align with school curriculum:** Choose resources that complement what your child is learning in school.
- **Ensure safety and appropriateness:** AI tools need to be closely monitored by parents.

Using Technology for Homework and Organization:

Beyond core subject learning, technology offers powerful tools for tackling the practical demands of schoolwork, such as managing assignments and staying organized. For many neurodivergent students who may face challenges with executive functions, utilizing these digital resources can provide structure and support for homework, planning, and collaboration.

- **Online Research:** Teach your child how to use AI and search engines effectively and evaluate the credibility of online sources.
- **Writing Tools:** Use word processing programs, grammar checkers, and online dictionaries to support writing skills. AI can serve as an excellent editor that can help a child compare and contrast.
- **Organization Apps:** Use digital calendars, to-do lists, and note-taking apps to help your child stay organized.
- **Collaboration Tools:** Use online platforms for group projects and collaborative learning.

Supporting Specific Learning Needs:

Finding the right technological support can be incredibly impactful for children with specific learning needs. It's important to accurately assess the child's specific needs and challenges to ensure the chosen tools are the most effective and appropriate fit for their development.

- **Speech-to-Text:** For children who struggle with writing, speech-to-text software can be a valuable tool. This is available through many AI tools.
- **Text-to-Speech:** For children who struggle with reading, text-to-speech software can read aloud text on the screen.
- **Assistive Technology:** Explore other assistive technology tools to support your child's specific learning needs.



Digital Literacy and Safety:

As children increasingly use technology for learning and connection, navigating the complexities of the digital world safely and responsibly is paramount. For neurodivergent learners, who may process social cues differently or require explicit instruction, building strong digital literacy and online safety skills is crucial for their confidence and well-being.

- **Online Safety:** Teach your child about online safety, including how to protect their personal information and avoid cyberbullying.
- **Critical Thinking:** Help your child develop critical thinking skills to evaluate the information they find online.
- **Digital Citizenship:** Discuss responsible online behavior and the importance of being respectful and kind to others.

Balance Technology with Other Activities:

Remember that technology should be one part of a balanced learning experience. Encourage your child to engage in other activities, such as reading, physical activity, and social interaction. Read more about balancing your child's play diet [here](#).

Explore Khan Academy:

One tool that stands out for academic skills is Khan Academy. Its latest iteration, an AI-based tutoring program called Khanmigo, is recommended for many neurodivergent students who struggle in school. Exploring Khan Academy is a great idea. It offers various educational resources, including videos, practice exercises, and personalized learning dashboards. It also has a section on social-emotional skills, which is valuable for overall development.

Remember :

Technology can be a powerful tool for learning, but it's essential to use it strategically and thoughtfully. By choosing the right resources and providing guidance, you can help your child make the most of the digital world.

For those seeking additional support and resources on neurodivergence and related cognitive skills, South County Child and Family Consultants offers a wealth of information and expertise. By visiting our website, you can access a carefully selected collection of books and materials, connect with knowledgeable specialists, and find personalized advice to help you or your child navigate the unique challenges and strengths of neurodivergence. Whether you're looking for strategies to improve daily routines, educational accommodations, executive functioning, or simply to better understand your child's neurodivergent profile, South County Child and Family Consultants is a valuable resource for empowering individuals and families.