

Homeschool Companion Connections Newsletter

Issue # 4: November, 2024



Can technology actually support learning? Yes, but we need a course explaining how to use it. Let's discuss how technology can be used as a learning aid instead of a tool that just does your kid's homework for you.

Choosing the right tech tools for homeschooling can be overwhelming. You need to consider age-appropriateness, educational content, and ease of use. Online platforms offer interactive lessons, games, and virtual field trips. The homeschool community is a valuable resource for recommendations. Families can enhance lessons and provide engaging learning experiences with carefully selected tech tools.

What is AI?

Artificial intelligence refers to machines or software that process information and act similarly to humans. This broad definition encompasses various technologies, from simple algorithms to complex systems like chatbots. Understanding this foundation is crucial for parents as they engage with their children's education and technology use.

AI influences critical considerations for parents in three distinct ways:

- **Technology is Here to Stay:** It has become a permanent fixture in educational landscapes. Its growth suggests increasing integration in practices.
- **Rethinking Assignments:** Traditional assignments can be reevaluated using large language models like AI and ChatGPT. These tools challenge educators to find new ways to assess student understanding.
- **Supporting Learning:** Many educators are finding ways to use AI to enhance learning experiences, stimulate discussions, and encourage creativity.

Devotional—from The Gospel Companion

We know that homeschooling can be challenging, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But I want you to know that you're not alone and that God is with you every step of the way.

As you start your day, take a moment to breathe and remember that you're teaching your kids God's love, not just academics. Take time to read something from the Bible or a Christian writer, and pray for your children, your family, and yourself.

Take things one step at a time. Don't be too hard on yourself if things don't go as planned. And don't forget to take care of yourself - whether that's taking a few deep breaths, going for a walk, or enjoying a cup of coffee while it's still hot.

You're doing a great job, homeschool mom! Keep going, and know that God is with you every step of the way."

How AI Can Help You With Your Homeschool

AI-powered educational tools can help you get instant feedback on your child's performance and adjust their learning plan accordingly. These tools use artificial intelligence to help your child learn and provide you with real-time feedback on their progress. They can help you identify areas where your child is struggling or excelling so you can provide additional support or challenges to keep them on track.

Three AI-powered tools to try:

1. **Khan Academy:** This online learning platform offers various educational resources, including lessons, quizzes, and practice exercises. You can create a free account and track your child's math, science, and history progress.
2. **Smartick:** This AI-powered math program adapts to your child's level and learning speed, providing instant feedback and tracking their progress. You can use this information to identify areas where your child needs extra help and provide targeted support.
3. **Chat GPT:** This AI learning helper can provide instant feedback on your child's written work, analyzing their text and suggesting improvements. This can help your child develop their writing skills and give you insights into their progress.

Dates of Note: November 5.....Election Day
November 22-December 1....Thanksgiving Break
December 20-January 1... Christmas Break



Homer, our mascot, says,

"Life is too short to be serious all the time. If you can't laugh at yourself, call me. I'll laugh at you."

Homeschool Companion's website: <https://homeschoolcompanion.org/>

Office address: Smithsburg, Maryland 21783, United States

Phone: 301-824-3162

Email: myhomeschoolcompanion@gmail.com

Business Hours: 9:00 am – 05:00 pm