Understanding How AI Learns

Parent Workshop Activity Packet

This packet accompanies the interactive parent session on artificial intelligence. Through these activities you will experience how AI systems learn from examples, how models make predictions, and how missing or incomplete data can affect outcomes. The goal is not simply to understand AI tools, but to better understand the systems shaping the world our children are growing up in.

Key Idea

Training Data → Patterns → Predictions

As you work through the activities, consider:

• What patterns is the system learning?

• What information might be missing?

• How might those gaps affect decisions?

Thank you for participating.

Activity 1: Training the AI Model

Look at the labeled images at your table. Imagine you are the AI system being trained. Notice patterns that might help distinguish between alligators and crocodiles.

Step 1: Observing the Training Data

Image	Label	What do you notice?
A	Alligator	
B	Crocodile	
C	Alligator	
D	Crocodile	
E	Alligator	
F	Crocodile	
G	Alligator	
H	Crocodile	

Step 2: What patterns might the AI learn?

Alligators tend to have:

_____

Crocodiles tend to have:

_____

Other patterns your group noticed:

_____

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Step 3: What might be missing from this training data?

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Activity 2: Testing Your AI Model

Use the rules your group developed from the training data to classify the new images shown during the presentation.

Step 1: Model Predictions

Image	Prediction	Confidence	Rule or Pattern Used
A		High / Medium / Low	
B		High / Medium / Low	
C		High / Medium / Low	
D		High / Medium / Low	
E		High / Medium / Low	
F		High / Medium / Low	
G		High / Medium / Low	
H		High / Medium / Low	

Step 2: Reflection

Which images were hardest to classify?

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_____

Why were they difficult?

_____

_____

Did your group always agree? Why or why not?

_____

_____

What additional training data might improve your AI model?

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Activity 3: When AI Interprets People

Earlier you trained an AI model using animal images. Now consider how AI systems might interpret human behavior, writing, or communication.

Step 1: When Rules Meet Real Life

Possible AI Interpretation	Why might the AI make this decision?

Step 2: Thinking About Training Data

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Step 3: Who Might Be Misunderstood?

Student Example	Why might AI misunderstand them?

Step 4: Improving the System

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