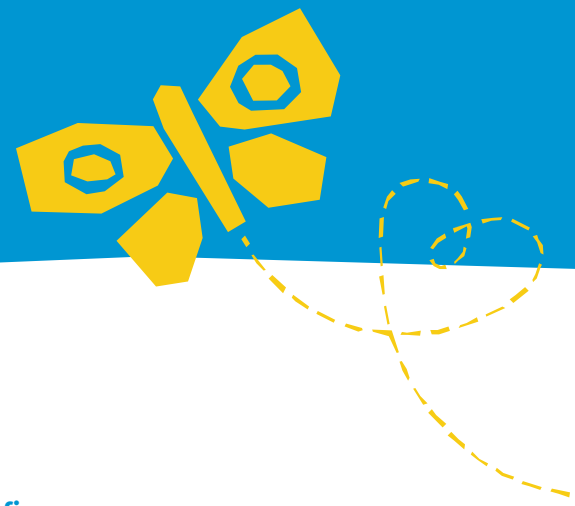# Storypark

Implementing artificial intelligence (AI) in ECE

User guide & tips

Considering implementing AI tools in your early years setting?

Follow this short guide to gain tips for successful, considered implementation that supports all educators.

Steps

1. **Define your purpose**

2. **Compliance and AI policy**

3. **Discuss and pilot**

4. **Evaluate**

5. **Measure success**

6. **Adopt, train and share**

7. **Celebrate success and continue advocacy**

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Defining your purpose

If we take a 'technology-first' approach, i.e. jumping in to use AI tools without a considered plan, it's possible to quickly lose sight of the unique problems, challenges and context that first led us to contemplate using them.

Create a solid framework for evaluation and measuring success.

Clearly define your:

- Objectives
- Intentions
- Purposes
- Anticipated benefits

Consider also what tasks AI itself is best at, and how to evaluate any AI tools you might use.

Some questions you might ask amongst your team as you evaluate AI tools and define your purpose in using AI are:

- What are our goals for integrating AI into our service/s?
- What benefits do we expect to see for all stakeholders, including managers, administrators, educators, children, and families?

Compliance: Risk management through policy development

Before you begin using AI tools, work with your team to address security and privacy considerations. Every organisation and situation is different, but it's crucial to consider the risks.

Ask and think through questions about how your data is being stored and used. For example:

- Are the tools trained on your information and/or do they keep it for other purposes?
- Are there privacy and security measures in place to protect children, families and educators?
- Will AI generated content reflect genuine voices, or is there risk in distorting them?
- How can your teams, as ECE professionals, maintain oversight of any AI-generated content?

At Storypark, we've developed an AI Factsheet to clearly outline how data is handled through our AI tools, whether Storypark AI is trained on your information (hint: it's not), and what security measures are in place.

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An AI Policy

Look to include and consider the following in an AI policy:

- A definition of AI specific to your service/s

- Your service/s philosophy and how this relates to AI use

- Your intent, aim, purpose and benefits of using AI

- Your guidelines for responsible use. Consider relating this to the code of ethics, teaching standards, quality practices, regulations and any other relevant guiding and licensing documents.

- Risks and challenges, and how you will minimise these

- The professional development or training you will offer educators

- A use agreement for staff. This ensures everyone understands the expectations of use. It is beneficial for all your staff to indicate their agreement to the terms by signature. This document should also include an opportunity for them to suggest support or professional learning they require to use AI in the manner outlined.

Think through how best to share your policy with both educators and families before your pilot programme begins. Storypark has created a sample letter you can modify and share with families. Be prepared to answer questions about the technology and how you plan to use it.

Discuss and pilot

New tools, whether they be new computers, voice recorders or AI tools, don't get absorbed into our practice overnight.

While technical readiness is important, the more informed and 'brought along on the journey' teams feel, the more willing they may be to see how AI tools can help their practice. Consider facilitating, "impromptu, informal discussions with teachers and staff to talk about why [generative AI]."

Initiate a pilot programme for your chosen AI tools with a select group of educators (or if applicable, a few services). Choose a diverse mix of participants, including open-minded AI enthusiasts, as well as those who are hesitant, not confident with technology, and/or prefer traditional methods. This latter group will provide compelling stories and motivate others once you go wider.

Ensure that the pilot program is time-bound and participants know when feedback is expected. It is essential that everyone understands they'll need to consistently use the AI tools during the pilot period.

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Evaluation by educators and management

At the end of the pilot, guide participants to reflect on what's worked, positive changes and any barriers or challenges.

Some reflective questions for surveying the pilot group:

- Rate your experience using AI during this pilot:
  - 1: I didn't find AI helpful at all
  - 5: extremely helpful, it enhanced my thinking, understanding and skills

- What did you learn from using AI?
- What changes have you noticed?
- What challenges did you experience?
- Did you [insert goals for adopting AI] during the pilot?

Measuring success after pressing go

It's important to understand that adopting AI tools is not a one-time action. A structured approach to ongoing monitoring and evaluation is equally essential.

Define clear, actionable key performance indicators (KPIs) that align with your service objectives *and* reflect the impact you expect from implementing AI tools.

Your goals may include:

- Improving the quality of educators' work
- Building educator confidence and capabilities
- Reducing documentation and operational time
- Enhancing educators' productivity
- Increasing family engagement

By monitoring these over time you can look to make sure your use of AI remains relevant and effective, particularly as we know this is a space where the technology is rapidly developing.

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Adopt, train and share

Storypark has recorded [a webinar to support initial understanding and benefits of AI tools](#)**. Viewing this could be accompanied by sharing your AI policy.**

If you've made the decision that your whole team will adopt AI, it's important to remember that *simply providing them with tools is not sufficient.* They all need to understand how AI will benefit and support them—in their documentation, communication, and with families. As well as what best practice use looks like.

In addition to training sessions, consider establishing a feedback loop where team members can share their experiences, challenges, and successes. This could be in the form of a shared 'AI Channel' or a dedicated room in Storypark, your organisation's community of practice (CoP), or in Microsoft Teams.

Such a space will encourage ongoing collaboration and help discover new ways to use the tools effectively. Without adequate training, feedback, and troubleshooting, the adoption process may slow down or even come to a standstill.

Celebrate success and continue advocacy

Actively promote the sharing of educators' experiences and success stories.

This involves highlighting specific instances that have led to measurable success, showcasing the challenges faced and overcome by educators, and celebrating achievements. By amplifying these narratives, you foster a supportive community that values educational excellence and innovation in an evolving tech landscape and inspire ongoing professional development amongst your educators.

Introducing Storypark AI!

Considered AI supporting educators and enhancing quality practice

Learn more

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Enhance quality practice,
improve family engagement
and empower your team