

THIS WEEKEND'S FAMILY ACTIVITY

The Proof Check

GAME

SKILL: EVIDENCE THINKING

45 MINUTES

RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE

Ages 8–14: kids this age can articulate what tools are supposed to do and have enough experience with apps and AI to audit their own habits meaningfully.

WHAT YOU NEED

Paper and pens for each player

Scissors or a pen to make claim slips

A bowl or hat to hold the slips

Three colored cards per person (green, yellow, red)

A timer (phone works fine)

ACTIVITY STEPS

- 01 Each family member writes down three tools or habits they use regularly, one per slip of paper. Include at least one AI-related item (a chatbot, a voice assistant, an AI feature in a school app). Fold the slips and put them in a bowl. Mix the bowl.
- 02 Take turns drawing a slip. Read the tool or habit out loud and make a specific claim: "I use this because it helps me do X." The claim must be concrete, not "it helps me generally." The presenter has 60 seconds to make their best case.
- 03 The rest of the family asks three questions in order: What is your evidence? How would you know if it stopped working? Who wants you to believe this, and why? The presenter answers honestly. The family listens without arguing — save disagreements for the vote.
- 04 Every other family member holds up a colored card simultaneously. Green = Strong Evidence. Yellow = Weak Evidence. Red = No Evidence. After the reveal, each person explains their vote in one sentence. The presenter takes notes but cannot argue back yet.
- 05 After everyone has gone, the family picks the item with the most red and yellow cards and designs a simple three-day test together: what to track, what counts as working, what counts as not. Write it down. Whoever owns the item runs the test this week and reports back.

THE DEEPER LESSON

Stanford University reviewed more than 800 studies on AI in schools and found almost no solid evidence that AI tools consistently improve student learning. Schools are adopting them anyway because the pressure to act is stronger than the pressure to ask first. The Proof Check builds the habit of asking first. A child who learns to ask "how do we know this works?" before committing to a tool will carry that reflex into every confident AI claim they encounter for the rest of their life.

CONVERSATION STARTER

If your school started using a new AI tool in the classroom next month, what three questions would you want answered before you decided how much to trust it?

Raised Nimble

You cannot out-compete AI. But you can out-human it.

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