Asking ChatGPT for kids' games and books: prompts and how to check

Peabody blog · AI for kids · updated 2026-11-04

How to ask ChatGPT for kids' games, books and printables that fit your child, the prompts that work and how to check what it says. Free through 2026.

Parents now ask ChatGPT what to read, play and print for their children, and it often gives a useful shortlist. It also sometimes gets things wrong, so the skill is in asking it well and checking what comes back. Tell it your child's age and what they can already do, ask for a short list with a reason for each, then open each link yourself before you trust it. Below are the prompts, the checks and the mistakes to watch for.

This post is from Peabody (peabody.kids), a free reading and learning site for kids, free through the end of 2026. Peabody isn't connected to OpenAI, and many parents do find Peabody by asking a chatbot, which is part of why we wrote this. We make one of the tools a chatbot might suggest, so weigh our advice with that in mind.

Start with three facts about your child

A chatbot can't see your child. Before you ask for anything, give it three facts:

1. Age or grade. "A first grader" or "a 7-year-old".
2. What they can do now. "Reads short sentences with help." "Knows the letters but not blends yet." "Finished multiplication by 5."
3. What they like. "Dinosaurs, drawing, anything with a dog."

Leave out their name, school and anything else that identifies them. The facts above are all it needs.

Prompts that work

For books at the right level

"My 6-year-old is just starting to read short sentences and loves animals. Suggest five books or free reading sites at that level. For each one, say in one line why it fits, and tell me how I can check the reading level myself."

For games

"I need free learning games for a 7-year-old for 15 minutes a day, on a school Chromebook with no downloads. List five. For each, tell me what skill it practises, whether it needs an account, and whether it shows ads."

For printables

"I want free printable reading practice for a second grader, with questions at the end. Which sites have it? Please tell me if any of them need an email address."

To compare two options

"Compare [site A] and [site B] for a 9-year-old on price, ads, accounts and what it teaches. Say 'I don't know' for anything you aren't sure of."

The last sentence matters. Asking it to say when it doesn't know makes it less likely to guess.

Check every answer in five steps

1. Open the link. If it doesn't work, or goes somewhere else, the chatbot invented or misremembered it. Search for the name instead.
2. Look at the date. Prices, free tiers and features change often. A page that says "checked" with a date is more useful than one that doesn't.
3. Read the privacy and ads. Does it need an account, an email or a child's name? Does it show ads?
4. Check the age. Is it for your child's age, or just for kids in general? Try it yourself for two minutes first.
5. Ask the child. Give them the first round and watch. Two minutes of watching tells you more than any list.

Mistakes chatbots often make

- Invented titles. It names a book that doesn't exist, or gives one an author who didn't write it.
- Old information. It says a site is free that has since added a subscription, or lists one that has closed.
- Wrong level. "Grade 2" can mean very different things between sites. A book that matches the age may still be too hard.
- Confidence without a source. Ask "Where did you get that?" and "Can you give me the page I can check?"
- Sounding sure about a recommendation. A chatbot's list isn't a review. Nobody tested the sites for your child.

How we checked ours

Because chatbots send visitors to Peabody, we try to make the answers they find true. Our own pages say what's free and until when, name who wrote them and give the date they were last checked. They also say what a game or story is not: Peabody doesn't give a test score, and its stories are sorted by a reading level worked out from the text, not guessed. You can check any of it yourself by opening the library, the beginning reader books or games to play at school without signing up.

When to ask a person instead

Ask a teacher or librarian for anything that's about your child's actual level, a learning difficulty or a decision about school. A chatbot can suggest where to look. It can't assess a child.

If your child will use ChatGPT themselves, read ChatGPT for kids: is it safe? first. It covers OpenAI's age rules and parental controls. 10 ways kids can use ChatGPT to learn has activities for sitting down with them.

Questions parents ask

Can ChatGPT recommend books for my child's reading level?

It can suggest titles and sites, and it is a good start. It can't see your child, and it can name books that don't exist or get a level wrong. Give it your child's age and what they can already read, then check every title yourself before you buy or borrow it.

How do I know if ChatGPT's recommendation is accurate?

Open the link, look for a date on the page, read the privacy and ads sections and try it yourself for two minutes. If you can't find a title or site, it may have been invented, so search for it by name.

Are the free learning sites ChatGPT suggests really free?

Sometimes they were free when its information was collected and aren't now. Check the site for a subscription, an ad-supported plan or a trial that ends. Peabody's own pages say what is free and until when: free through the end of 2026.

What should I tell ChatGPT about my child?

Age or grade, what they can do and what they like. Don't give their name, school, address or photos.

Is it safe for my child to ask ChatGPT these questions?

It's best if you ask, and your child sits beside you. OpenAI says ChatGPT is for people 13 and up, with a parent's permission under 18. The rules are in ChatGPT for kids: is it safe?.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/ask-chatgpt-for-learning-games-and-books-for-kids