



## Our Futures and AI

# A List of Potential Tools and Where to Find Them

**Navigating the fast-paced world of AI tools can feel overwhelming.**

Here, we have selected and evaluated potential tools with the core principles for youth workers:

- For image and creative generation
- For Text and Conversation
- For Audio and Video Production
- For Learning and Exploration of AI concepts



## For image and creative generation:

Tool	Best for	Key considerations
<b>Canva Education (Magic Studio)</b> <a href="https://canva.com/en_gb/education">canva.com/en_gb/education</a>	Safe, integrated image generation and design within a familiar platform. Creating posters, social media content, and presentations.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Designed for general use; popular in schools.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Strong community guidelines and content filters.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> Freemium model; web- and app-based, works on most devices.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Great for discussing digital authorship and design ethics</p>
<b>Adobe Express (Firefly AI)</b> <a href="https://adobe.com/express/create">adobe.com/express/create</a>	Safe, commercially licensed image generation from text.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Designed for ethical, professional creativity.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Trained on licensed and public domain data to mitigate bias; strong filters.</p> <p><b>Privacy:</b> Adobe states prompts are not used to train public models.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> Free tier with limited monthly generations.</p>
<b>Crayon (Formerly DALL-E mini)</b> <a href="https://craiyon.com">craiyon.com</a>	Quick, simple, and often quirky image generation. No account needed.	<p><b>Accessibility:</b> Highly accessible, completely free, low-bandwidth friendly.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Its less polished, sometimes stereotyped outputs are useful for critical discussions on AI bias and limitations.</p>
<b>DALL-E</b> <a href="https://openai.com/dall-e-3">openai.com/dall-e-3</a> (via ChatGPT or Bing)	High-quality, detailed, and imaginative image generation from text prompts.	<p><b>Safety &amp; Access:</b> Accessed through platforms with age restrictions (such as ChatGPT). Requires careful facilitation.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Its high-quality outputs are ideal for in-depth analysis of copyright, artistic style, and the ethics of AI imitation.</p>

Tool	Best for	Key considerations
<b>Midjourney</b> <a href="https://midjourney.com">midjourney.com</a>	Generating highly artistic, stylised, and realistic images. Has a distinct, often photogenic style.	<p><b>Safety &amp; Access:</b> Accessed via Discord, a platform with its own safeguarding challenges.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> Requires a paid subscription. Complex for direct youth use.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Useful as a discussion catalyst. Analyse its outputs for bias in beauty standards, professional portrayals, and cultural representation.</p>
<b>NightCafe Creator</b> <a href="https://creator.nightcafe.studio">creator.nightcafe.studio</a>	Exploring different AI art styles and techniques.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Built for AI art enthusiasts.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Optional community galleries; use in 'private' mode for sessions.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Transparent about different AI models, useful for comparing how algorithms produce different outputs.</p>
<b>Scratch AI Coding Tools</b> <a href="https://scratch.mit.edu/ai">scratch.mit.edu/ai</a> (Explore extensions)	Introducing AI concepts like machine learning and speech recognition within the block-based Scratch coding environment.	<p><b>Safety &amp; Accessibility:</b> Hosted on the trusted, free Scratch platform. No data privacy concerns. Perfect for beginner coders.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Empowers young people to be AI creators, not just consumers. They can build simple AI projects, making abstract concepts like 'training' and 'classification' hands-on and understandable.</p>

## For Text and Conversation:

Tool	Best for	Key considerations
<b>ChatGPT (Open AI)</b> <a href="https://chatgpt.com">chatgpt.com</a>	General conversation, creative writing, and coding help.	<p><b>Audience:</b> Users must be 18+ (or 13+ with parental or legal guardian permission). Crucial for youth workers to manage account access.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Custom instructions and moderation APIs allow some control over content.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> A classic example for discussing 'hallucinations' and bias in LLMs.</p>
<b>Gemini for Students (Google)</b> <a href="https://gemini.google/students">gemini.google/students</a>	Research, brainstorming, and analysing text.	<p><b>Safety:</b> Includes multiple adjustable safety filters.</p> <p><b>Privacy:</b> Check Google's data settings; users can turn off saving activity.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Good for demonstrating fact-checking, often provides links to sources for verification.</p>
<b>Perplexity</b> <a href="https://perplexity.ai">perplexity.ai</a>	Research with a focus on source citation.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Excellent for research-based projects.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Recommended for training research skills. It cites sources for most answers, making fact-checking and bias-tracing a core part of the activity.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> Strong free tier.</p>

## For Audio and Video Production:

Tool	Best for	Key considerations
<b>Audacity (with AI plugins)</b> <a href="https://audacityteam.org">audacityteam.org</a>	Free, open-source audio editing; can integrate AI noise reduction or music generation plugins.	<p><b>Accessibility:</b> Free and runs on older computers.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Using open-source tools sparks discussions about open vs. closed technology.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Local processing (for some plugins) can enhance data privacy.</p>
<b>Gen-2 by Runway</b> <a href="https://runwayml.com/research/gen-2">runwayml.com/research/gen-2</a>	Short video generation from text or images.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Generating AI videos.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Requires careful prompting to prevent exposure to inappropriate content. Best used in facilitated, guided sessions.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Powerful for discussing deepfakes, media literacy, and the future of filmmaking.</p>
<b>Suno AI</b> <a href="https://suno.com">suno.com</a>	Generating complete musical tracks (instrumentals and vocals) from text prompts.	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Cutting-edge music generation.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Best for deep debates on artistry and copyright.</p> <p><b>Accessibility and Safety:</b> Freemium model with daily credits. Outputs can vary widely in quality, requiring critical listening.</p> <p><b>Best use:</b> Highly engaging for music-focused projects; pair with a discussion of AI's impact on the music industry.</p>
<b>Craiyon (Formerly DALL-E mini)</b> <a href="https://craiyon.com">craiyon.com</a>	Quick, simple image generation with a distinct, often quirky artistic style.	<p><b>Accessibility:</b> Completely free; no account required; ideal for low-bandwidth settings.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Its less polished, sometimes biased outputs can facilitate discussions about AI limitations and stereotypes by comparing its results with other tools.</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> Community-generated images in the gallery may be unpredictable; use them best in a guided session focused on prompt crafting.</p>

## For Learning and Exploration of AI concepts:

Tool	Best for	Key considerations
<b>Google Quick, Draw!</b> <a href="https://quickdraw.withgoogle.com">quickdraw.withgoogle.com</a>	A fun game that demonstrates how a neural network learns.	<b>Accessibility:</b> Completely free, no login required, works on any device. <b>Purpose and Critical Engagement:</b> Perfect 5-minute icebreaker to introduce AI learning in a playful, non-threatening way.
<b>Teachable Machine (Google)</b> <a href="https://teachablemachine.withgoogle.com">teachablemachine.withgoogle.com</a>	Training a simple AI model to recognise images, sounds, or poses using a webcam or microphone.	<b>Purpose and Safety:</b> Exceptional for education. Runs entirely in the browser; projects stay on your device unless you save them to Google Drive. <b>Critical Engagement:</b> Shows how the data you choose to train the model directly affects its output. <b>Accessibility:</b> Free, no coding required, works on most browsers.
<b>Machine Learning for Kids (IBM)</b> <a href="https://machinelearningforkids.co.uk">machinelearningforkids.co.uk</a>	Hands-on projects to train simple AI models (image, text, sound).	<b>Purpose and Safety:</b> Specifically designed for education. Runs in a controlled, ethical environment. <b>Critical Engagement:</b> Teaches how AI is 'trained', making bias and data concepts tangible. <b>Accessibility:</b> Free; can be used offline.
<b>Creatability (Google)</b> <a href="https://experiments.withgoogle.com/collection/creatability">experiments.withgoogle.com/collection/creatability</a>	Exploring how AI and technology can make creative expression more accessible to people with disabilities.	<b>Purpose:</b> Designed with inclusivity at its core. Offers experiments that can be controlled with face gestures, body movements, or sounds. <b>Critical Engagement:</b> Sparks vital discussions about who technology is for and how AI can be used for social good and accessibility. <b>Accessibility:</b> Free, browser-based, and designed for diverse inputs.

Tool	Best for	Key considerations
<p><b>Google AI Classes</b>  <a href="https://ai.google/build/machine-learning">ai.google/build/machine-learning</a>            (Explore 'Education' section)</p>	<p>Free, beginner-friendly courses and learning resources on AI fundamentals and machine learning.</p>	<p><b>Accessibility:</b> High-quality, free content. Can be text-heavy, best for older or highly engaged young people.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Perfect for supporting youth who want to go beyond using AI to understand how it's built.</p>
<p><b>Socratic by Google</b>  <a href="https://socratic.org">socratic.org</a></p>	<p>Getting step-by-step explanations for homework questions (maths, science, literature) using a phone's camera.</p>	<p><b>Safety &amp; Accessibility:</b> Designed specifically for learning, with explanations linked to educational resources.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> A great tool to discuss learning vs. cheating. Encourage young people to use it to understand steps, not just copy answers.</p>
<p><b>Minecraft Education</b>  <a href="https://education.minecraft.net">education.minecraft.net</a></p>	<p>Immersive, game-based learning across subjects, with AI-themed lessons and coding challenges.</p>	<p><b>Safety &amp; Accessibility:</b> A controlled, moderated environment popular in schools. May require licenses.</p> <p><b>Critical Engagement:</b> Excellent for project-based learning. Use its AI lessons to make concepts such as training data and algorithms tangible in a familiar, engaging world.</p>

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