These activity guides provide everything you need to teach prompt literacy in your classroom or home. Each activity includes clear instructions, time estimates, materials needed, and learning goals. Activities are designed for kids ages 8-15 and can be adapted based on your specific context.

Activity 1: The Prompt Upgrade Challenge

Age Range	8-15 years old
Time	20 minutes
Materials	• Access to AI chatbot (ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, etc.) • Whiteboard or shared document for recording • Optional: printout of Prompt Templates
Learning Goal	Students understand how specificity improves AI responses

Instructions:

1. Start with a very basic prompt as a class. Write on the board: Tell me about dogs
2. Enter this prompt into an AI tool and read the response aloud. Discuss: Is this helpful? What information is missing? What did we want to know about dogs?
3. Brainstorm as a class: What details could we add to make this prompt better? Write suggestions on the board (examples: which dog breeds, for what purpose, how long should the answer be).
4. Create 3-4 upgraded versions together. Examples: Compare the exercise needs of small dogs vs large dogs for a family with young children, Explain why some dog breeds are better for apartments, using examples a 10-year-old would understand
5. Test each upgraded prompt and compare responses. Which worked best? Why?
6. Reflection: Have students write down one thing they learned about writing good prompts.

Adaptation Ideas:

- For younger students: Focus on just 2-3 upgrades and work together as a whole class
- For older students: Have small groups each upgrade a different basic prompt and present their findings
- At home: Parent and child work together on a topic the child is genuinely curious about

Activity 2: AI Interview Questions

Age Range	10-15 years old
Time	30 minutes
Materials	• AI chatbot access • Paper or digital document for writing interview questions • List of historical figures or fictional characters (optional)
Learning Goal	Practice perspective-taking and creating context-rich prompts

Instructions:

1. Each student chooses a historical figure or fictional character they want to interview. Examples: Marie Curie, Harriet Tubman, Hermione Granger, Neil Armstrong.
2. Discuss: If you were going to interview this person, what would you want to ask them? What would make the interview interesting?
3. Write a role-setting prompt that tells the AI who to pretend to be. Model an example: You are Amelia Earhart, the famous aviator. Answer questions about your experience as a pilot in the 1930s, including challenges you faced as a woman in aviation. Respond as if you are speaking directly to a curious student.
4. Students write 5 thoughtful interview questions. Encourage specific, open-ended questions rather than yes/no questions.
5. Students conduct their AI interview, starting with the role-setting prompt, then asking their questions one at a time.
6. Reflection discussion: Which questions generated the most interesting responses? What made a question work well? Did the AI stay in character? How could you tell?

Discussion Questions:

- Why was it important to tell the AI who to pretend to be?
- How is this different from just asking the AI What did Amelia Earhart do?
- What are the limitations of this activity? Would the AI truly know what this person thought or felt?

Activity 3: The But Don't Do My Work Prompt

Age Range	11-15 years old
Time	25 minutes
Materials	• AI chatbot access • Sample homework problems (math, science, or writing prompts) • Worksheet with problem scenarios
Learning Goal	Understand ethical AI use and how to get help without compromising learning

Instructions:

1. Frame the activity: Sometimes we need help with schoolwork, but we still need to do our own learning. Today we will practice asking AI for help in a way that teaches us rather than just giving us answers.
2. Present a sample problem. Example: Find the area of a triangle with base 8cm and height 5cm.
3. Contrast two approaches. Show BAD prompt: What is the area of a triangle with base 8cm and height 5cm? Then show GOOD prompt: Explain how to find the area of a triangle step by step. Give me a similar example to work through, but do not solve my specific problem yet.
4. Students practice with different scenarios. Provide 3-4 different homework-style problems across subjects. For each one, students write a prompt that gets help without getting the answer.
5. Test the prompts. Have students try their prompts and evaluate: Did this help me learn? Did it do the work for me, or teach me how to do it?
6. Class discussion: Why is it important to do your own work? When is it okay to use AI for homework? When is it not okay? How can you tell the difference?

Sample Scenarios:

- **Math: Solving a quadratic equation**

Good prompt: Explain the steps to solve quadratic equations using the quadratic formula. Show me the process with a different example, then I will try mine.

- **Science: Explaining photosynthesis for a report**

Good prompt: What are the key concepts I should understand about photosynthesis for a middle school report? Give me an outline of important topics to research, but I will write the explanations in my own words.

- **Writing: Essay on a book**

Good prompt: Ask me questions that will help me develop my ideas about the theme of courage in this novel. Help me think more deeply, but I need to form my own thesis.

Activity 4: Prompt Mad Libs

Age Range	8-12 years old
Time	15 minutes
Materials	• AI chatbot access • Prompt Mad Libs worksheet (template below) • Pencils or devices for typing
Learning Goal	Understand how different prompt elements shape AI responses

Instructions:

1. Introduce the activity: Just like Mad Libs, we are going to fill in the blanks to create complete prompts. Each blank is an important part that changes what we get back from the AI.
2. Show the template on the board: Write a [length] [genre] story about a [character] who [action] in a [setting].
3. Demonstrate with one example as a class. Fill in: Write a short mystery story about a young detective who solves a case in an old library.
4. Enter the prompt and read the AI response together. Discuss what worked.
5. Students create their own versions. Have them fill out the template 2-3 times with different ideas and test each prompt.
6. Share and compare. Which prompts created the most interesting results? What did changing each blank accomplish?

Additional Template Ideas:

- Explain [topic] to a [age] year old using [example type]
- Create a [number]-day plan to learn [skill] starting with [level]
- Compare [thing 1] and [thing 2] focusing on [aspect]
- Describe [person/place/thing] as if you were [different perspective]

Activity 5: The Prompt Recipe Card

Age Range	8-15 years old
Time	30 minutes
Materials	• Index cards or paper • Colored markers or pens • AI chatbot access for testing
Learning Goal	Develop metacognitive awareness of the prompting process

Instructions:

1. Introduce the concept: Just like a recipe tells you how to cook something, we are going to create a recipe for writing good prompts.
2. Brainstorm ingredients. Ask students: What are the ingredients of a good prompt? Write suggestions on the board. Examples: clear goal, specific details, context about who I am, desired format, length.
3. Create recipe cards. Students design their own Prompt Recipe Card that includes: Recipe name, Ingredients list, Step-by-step instructions, Tips for success.
4. Test the recipes. Students follow their own recipe card to create a prompt on any topic. They test it with an AI tool and evaluate: Did my recipe work? What would I change?
5. Recipe swap. Students trade recipe cards with a partner and try each other's recipes. Does it work for someone else?
6. Gallery walk. Post recipe cards around the room. Students visit other cards and add sticky note suggestions or compliments.

Sample Recipe Card:

The Perfect Explanation Recipe

Ingredients:

• 1 clear topic, • 1 target audience (age or knowledge level), • 2-3 specific details about what to include, • 1 format preference (steps, story, list), • A pinch of length guideline

Steps:

1. Start with Explain [topic], 2. Add for a [age] year old, 3. Mix in Include [specific details], 4. Stir in Present this as [format], 5. Finish with Make it about [length]

Tips: Always taste test by trying your prompt! If it doesn't work the first time, add more specific ingredients.

Extension Activity:

Create a class Prompt Recipe Book by compiling all student recipe cards. Make copies for everyone or create a digital version to share with families.

Tips for Implementation Across All Activities

Setting Up for Success:

- Establish clear guidelines for appropriate AI use before starting activities
- Model respectful language with AI tools (please, thank you)
- Remind students that AI makes mistakes and responses should be verified
- Create a safe environment where imperfect prompts are expected and celebrated as learning opportunities

Managing Technology:

- For classrooms with limited devices: Use whole-class demonstrations or pair students
- For homes: Work alongside your child on one device, taking turns
- Consider using free AI tools that don't require accounts for younger students
- Always supervise AI interactions with children

Assessment Ideas:

- Have students keep a Prompt Journal documenting their best prompts and what made them effective
- Create a classroom Prompt Hall of Fame showcasing excellent examples
- Use before and after comparisons: first prompt attempt vs. refined version
- Focus on process rather than perfect outcomes - celebrate improvement and iteration

Connecting to Other Learning:

- Math: Use prompts to explore mathematical concepts or get explanation of problem-solving strategies
- Science: Create prompts to learn about scientific phenomena or design experiments
- Language Arts: Practice descriptive writing by crafting detailed story prompts
- Social Studies: Interview historical figures or explore different cultural perspectives

Download more resources at SmartTechKids.com

Disclaimer: Always verify information provided by AI. While AI responses aim to be accurate and helpful, they may contain errors or outdated details. Always double-check with reliable sources before making decisions based on AI-generated content.