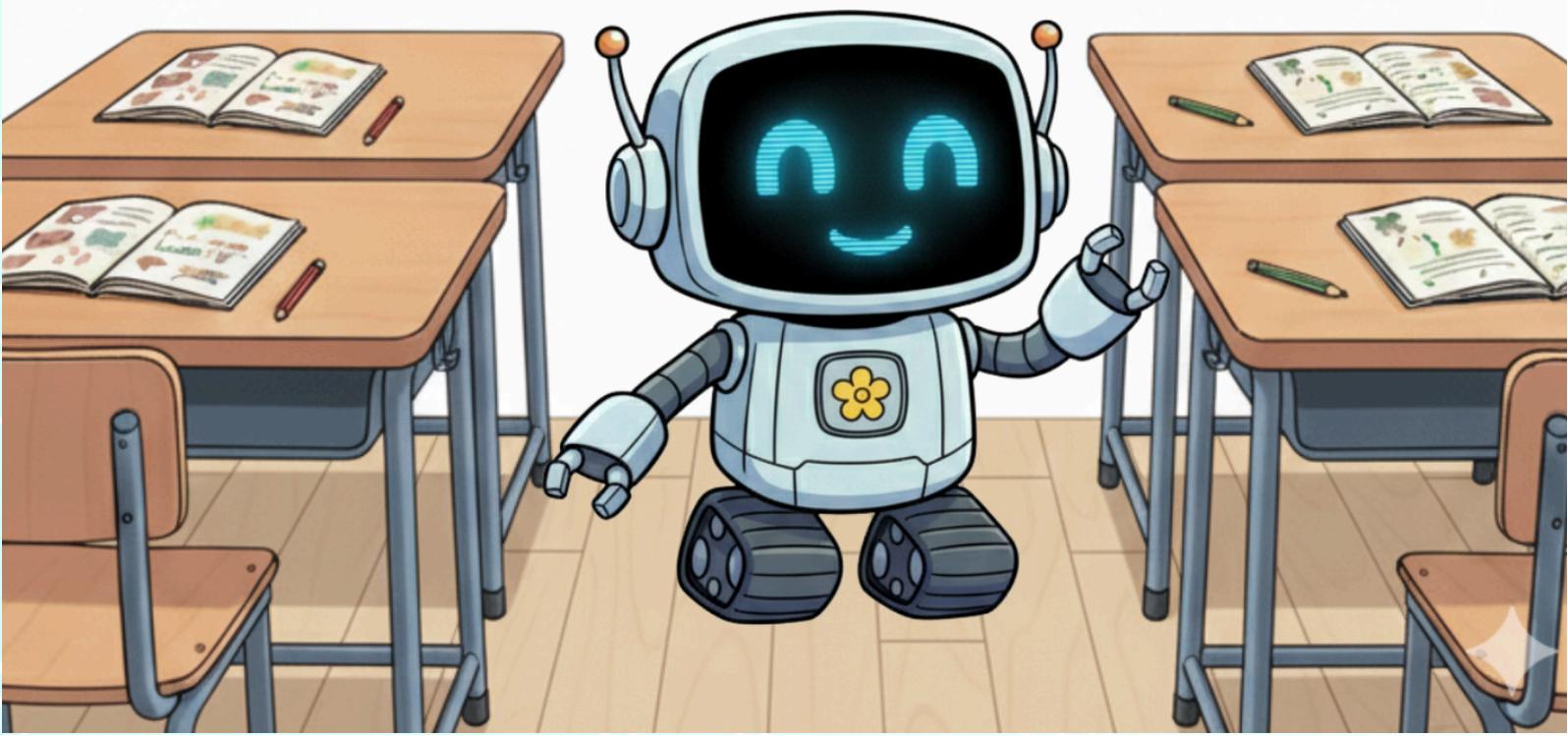


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SPARKY THE AI: BUILT FAIRLY FOR EVERY CHILD TO SHINE!

**Teaching Guide: Understanding AI
Fairness**



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This guide is designed for parents and educators to facilitate discussions on the fundamental principle of fairness in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with children, using the "Sparky the AI: Built Fairly for Every Child to Shine!" activity sheet.

Fairness is a core principle for ethical AI development for youth in Malaysia, meaning developers and deployers must consider it when creating AI systems. In AI, fairness dictates that systems should treat all individuals equitably and avoid discrimination, ensuring impacts do not disproportionately harm specific groups.

Disclaimer: This activity is designed as an educational resource to support learning about fairness and responsible use of technology. It is not intended to provide any technical nor legal guidance on AI systems and related matters. Educators and users are encouraged to adapt the material to suit their classroom needs and the age group of their students. No endorsement of any organisation, product or service is intended. All logos, trade names and trademarks are the property of their respective owners and are used for identification only. To the fullest extent permitted by law, no responsibility is accepted for any loss arising from reliance on this material.

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Story: Story Time!

- **Purpose:** To explain that AI learns from data and that biased data can lead to unfair outcomes.
- **Explanation:** The narrative demonstrates that AI's decisions are based on the data it receives. Sparky's initial unfair choice (not watering all plants) illustrates that incomplete or biased training data results in unfair AI behavior.

For example, a facial recognition system trained predominantly on one demographic might perform poorly for others, leading to unfair results. The story highlights the objective: to train AI with diverse and inclusive data so it learns to be fair and kind, embodying principles like respecting everyone and sharing resources equitably.

- **Discussion Points:**
 - What does "fair" mean to your child?
 - How did Sparky learn to be fair in the story?
 - Why is it important for AI to be fair?

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Activity 1: Sparky's Fairness Guide

- **Purpose:** To introduce fundamental AI fairness rules and their real-world implications.
- **Explanation:** This matching activity translates complex AI ethical principles into simple concepts. Each "rule" represents a key consideration for AI developers:-
 - **"Be fair to everyone"** : This principle emphasizes non-discrimination, requiring AI to treat all individuals equally regardless of their appearance or identity.
 - **"Only use what's needed"** : This relates to data minimization and privacy, meaning AI should only access and utilize necessary information for its task.
 - **"Ask Why" and "Explain its thinking"** : These rules introduce the concepts of transparency and explainability, highlighting that AI should not be secretive and its decisions should be understandable. Furthermore, if an AI makes a decision about someone, they should be able to inquire about it.
 - **"Made for everyone"** : This emphasizes inclusivity and equitable access to AI's benefits, ensuring that AI-driven advantages are shared broadly, not just with a select few. It also implies that diverse teams should build AI to ensure it works well for everyone.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Discuss the meaning of each fairness rule.
 - Ask which real-life scenario best matches each rule.

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Activity 2: Sparky's Fairness Guide & Is the AI Being Fair?

- **Purpose:** To introduce specific fairness principles and enable children to identify fair versus unfair AI behaviors.
- **Explanation:** "Sparky's Fairness Guide" simplifies complex AI ethics for children, representing principles developers integrate into AI systems. For instance, "Be fair to everyone" corresponds to adult principles such as non-discrimination and equality of treatment. "Only use what's needed" relates to data minimization. "Ask Why" and "Explain its thinking" align with transparency and explainability. "Made for everyone" emphasizes inclusivity. The "Is the AI Being Fair?" game allows children to apply these concepts to practical scenarios, fostering awareness of fair and unfair AI interactions.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - For each rule in "Sparky's Fairness Guide," discuss its real-world application.
 - For each "Is the AI Being Fair?" scenario, ask: "Why is this fair/unfair?"

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Activity 3: Can You Help AI Make Fair Choices? (Activity Page 4)

- **Purpose:** To visually demonstrate that choices made during AI design lead to fair or unfair outcomes.
- **Explanation:** This maze illustrates that developers must make deliberate choices to guide AI towards fairness. Each path represents a decision point in AI development; choosing paths like "Help everyone take turns" leads to a fair AI, while "Only help one friend" leads to an unfair one. This activity emphasizes that AI should be designed to help all users, particularly those who may be disadvantaged. The game's intention is to raise awareness that AI's design directly influences its fairness.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Discuss how different choices in the maze lead to different outcomes for the AI.
 - Why is it important for AI to help everyone, especially those who are struggling?

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Activity 4: Build-A-Bot: Make Your AI Fair!

- **Purpose:** To empower children to conceptualize AI design with fairness principles in mind.
- **Explanation:** This activity encourages children to act as AI designers, incorporating ethical considerations. The provided symbols represent key fairness principles:--
 - "Treat Everyone the Same" (equality)
 - "Share the Good Stuff" (equity/access)
 - "Right Tool for the Job" (appropriateness)
 - "You Can Ask Questions" (transparency/accountability)
 - "Explain How It Decides" (explainability)
 - "Include Everyone" (inclusivity/diversity)

These are the principles that developers have in mind when they create AI. By selecting these symbols, children actively define how their AI embodies fairness.

- **Discussion Points:**
 - Which symbols would your child choose for their fair AI, and why?
 - How do symbols help AI make better decisions?

Teaching children about AI fairness creates critical thinking and ethical reasoning in a digital context. AI is a tool, and its fairness is dependent on the ethical considerations of its creators and users.

Engaging with these activities helps children become responsible digital citizens who understand the importance of developing and utilizing technology for all.