



Make, Then Edit

A simple four-step rule that keeps creativity human: AI drafts, kid chooses, kid edits, kid explains. The order matters. The explaining step is the lesson.

All ages

10 min

Draft resource

1 What are we making?

Name the thing in one sentence. A drawing, a paragraph, a song lyric, a poster, a story. The more specific the kid can be, the better the AI draft will be.

2 What did AI give us?

Print, paste, or write down the AI draft. This is the starting point — not the final answer. Read it out loud together. Mark the parts that sound like the kid and the parts that sound like everyone else.

3 What did the kid change, and why?

This is the editing pass. The kid picks at least three lines, words, colors, or details to change. They say why. "It was boring." "It doesn't sound like a kid." "It used the same word twice." Reasons are the work.

4 Can the kid explain it to a friend?

If the kid can stand up and explain the work to a friend, a sibling, or a parent in plain words, the practice worked. If they can't, the AI did the work and the kid watched. That is not the goal.

"AI is the draft. You are the editor. If you can't explain what you made, you didn't really make it."

Keep one thing

At the end, choose one prompt, rule, or habit worth using again next week. Write it down so the family does not have to rediscover it.

The non-negotiable order

Always print or paste the AI draft. Don't trust memory.

"Sounds like a kid" is a compliment.
"Sounds like everyone" is not.

Edit before you share. Sharing is the finish line.

If the kid can explain it, the practice worked.

If the kid can't explain it, the AI did the work.

Make it yours

Our rule: _____

We will try: _____

Ask a human when: _____