Responsible AI Use in Child Protection: Practical Checklists

These three practical checklists are designed to help child protection practitioners and organisations identify potential risks, assess whether AI is appropriate for a particular task, and apply the necessary safeguards before using AI tools or acting on AI-generated outputs.

Data Checklist: before entering anything into an AI tool

If you cannot tick every item, stop and ask your AI focal point.

Before I enter this content, I confirm:	Done
1. **It contains no personal data about a child,** either directly or through a combination of details such as age, region, and case type.	
2. **The tool is approved,** or I have judged it low-risk and recorded which tool I used and why.	
3. **I have checked the tool's data protections.** If I am unsure, I treat it as a free tool and leave out sensitive content.	
4. **Any files I upload are public or cleared by my organisation.**	
5. **No AI recording, transcription or assistant is active in this meeting, email or document, unless the tool is approved for this content and everyone present has been told.**	
6. **I am not using the tool to create or alter an image, voice, or video of a real person or child, or to generate realistic portrayals of children, families, or other individuals receiving humanitarian assistance. .**	

Verification Checklist: before using an AI output

If you cannot tick every item, complete what is missing first.

Before I enter this content, I confirm:	Done
1. **I have read all of it critically,** not just the opening.	
2. **I have checked every fact** against an independent, current source, not against the AI itself.	
3. **I have judged it on its content,** not on how confident or polished it sounds.	
4. **I have applied my own professional judgement** and used the output to test it.	
5. **I have recorded my use of AI:** what it produced, what I checked, and where it differed from my own view.	

Human Risk Checklist: before acting on AI output in a decision about a child

Complete this checklist before using AI-generated information that could influence child protection practice. It helps prevent automation bias and over-reliance. AI must not be used to assess an individual child's risk, prioritise cases, or recommend individual protection or referral decisions (Annex A, Use Case 7).

Before I act, I confirm:	Done
1. **I have formed my own professional judgement** and can explain it independently of the AI output.	
2. **I have critically reviewed the output** and am not trusting it simply because it sounds confident or convincing.	
3. **I have asked a colleague or supervisor** for a second opinion where the information could have significant implications for child protection practice.	
4. **AI is not replacing human interaction or professional responsibility,** particularly when working directly with children and families.	

Part of the Guidelines for Responsible AI Use in Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

Explore the full guidance.