WELCOME TO

kidTECH LOS ANGELES



May 12-13, 2026

Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles

Presented by

kidSAFE® SEAL PROGRAM

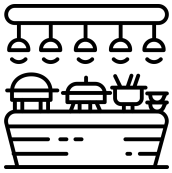
kidTECH LOS ANGELES

kidTECH Agenda - Day 1 (Tuesday)

11:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Check-In, Networking Buffet Lunch, and Magic Preview

kidTECH 2026 will take place at the magnificent Peterson Automotive Museum, located in the heart of Los Angeles and adjacent to iconic landmarks in Beverly Hills.



12:20 - 1:10 PM

Opening Remarks & State of Industry Keynotes

It should come as no surprise that the kids and family tech space continues to change rapidly. In our opening session, we will look at the moment we find ourselves in, while also looking at some research to help set the tone for the following sessions.



Shai Samet
(kidSAFE)



Zak Ringelstein
(Zigazoo)



Patrick Benad
(Precisify)

1:10 - 2:00 PM

Lights, Camera, Algorithm: AI's Role in the Future of Kids' Entertainment

From animated blockbusters to viral kids' content, the creators behind today's most beloved family-friendly media are navigating a rapidly evolving production landscape shaped by artificial intelligence. This panel brings together leading film and music producers to explore how AI is transforming the way child-friendly content is conceived, created, and curated – and whether it is a threat to originality and creative talent or a powerful tool to unlocking faster production, richer storytelling, and personalized experiences.



Veronica Miles (Mod)
(Film Producer)



Zach Schiller
(CenterStage)



Galyn Susman
(Producer, ex-Pixar)
virtual



Geneva Wasserman
(Dentsu)



Chris Schreiber
(Feed.fm)

2:00 - 2:20 PM

Game Time!

Just like at past kidTECH events, our friends Barry and Jade will make sure things don't get too serious!



Barry McLaughlin
Barry & Jason Games



Jade Wolf
Barry & Jason Games



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kidTECH Agenda - Day 1 (Tuesday)

2:20 - 3:10 PM

AI Toys and Chatbots Under the Microscope

Parents have long celebrated toys that keep kids off screens, so why are AI-powered plushes and chatbot companions drawing such intense scrutiny? This panel digs into what's really driving the unease: Is it the blurring line between tool and friend? Concerns about always-on microphones and data collection? The potential for emotional dependency? Or is regulation simply struggling to keep pace with novel technology? Hear directly from the voices shaping this space as they unpack the public and regulatory fears, share lessons from the front lines, and discuss what responsible innovation looks like.



Shai Samet (Mod)
(kidSAFE)



Mick Brege
(With Love)



Fateen Anam Rafid
(Bondu)



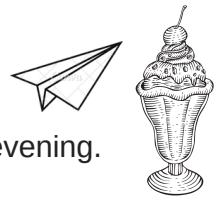
Rachel Flynn
(San Francisco State University) - virtual



Mo Sadek
(Alice)

3:10 - 3:30 PM

Sundae Bar Break, Paper Airplane Challenge, and Prepare for Outdoor Fun



Indulge in ice cream and sprinkles and watch a preview of the magic to come later in the evening.

3:30 - 6:00 PM

Offsite Fun Time and Bonding (choose from):

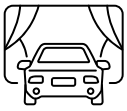
- ***Beverly Hills Segway Tour***. On this tour, you will embark on an exhilarating adventure as you glide down the bustling avenues of Beverly Hills aboard your Segway, the epitome of modern transportation.
  - Location of tour: Meetup at Petersen Museum parking lot
  - Duration: Meetup at 3:45pm; Tour runs 4:00-6:00pm



- ***Outdoor Pickleball Tournament***, at PIKL Los Angeles. Bring your sneakers for a one-of-a-kind, fast-paced contest challenging your colleagues to your best game of Pickleball.
  - Location of tournament: PIKL Los Angeles, located at 639 S La Brea Ave
  - Duration: From 3:45-5:45pm (arrange your own transportation to/from PIKL LA)



- ***Museum Highlights' Tour + Documentary Screening.*** Begin with a guided walk-through of the Petersen Automotive Museum's signature exhibits, then settle in for a special screening of "Your Attention Please", a new feature documentary on the attention economy's impact on kids and families.
  - Location: Petersen Automotive Museum
  - Duration: 3:30-4:30pm guided tour; 4:30-6:00pm documentary screening



6:00 - 7:30 PM

Taco Bar Reception & Magic Show



Come back to kidTECH headquarters for a one-of-a-kind, make your own taco dinner, while being mesmerized by Shlomo Levinger, one of the world's foremost magicians and mentalists.

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kidTECH Agenda - Day 2 (Wednesday)

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Check-In, Waffle-full Breakfast, and Social



10:00 - 10:40 AM

COPPA in Action: New Rules, Implementation Challenges, and Age Verification

With the new COPPA requirements now in effect following the April 22, 2026 compliance deadline, companies serving children online are entering a new era of regulatory scrutiny and operational change. This session will break down what the updated law means in practice, including key compliance obligations, practical implementation challenges, and immediate priorities and recommendations for product, legal, and cybersecurity teams. This presentation will also examine the FTC's latest enforcement guidance on how COPPA (versus other laws) applies to age verification techniques.



Akhil Bhardwaj
(kidSAFE Seal)

10:40 - 11:15 AM

Growth Lessons from Nex: A Fireside Chat with David Lee

Nex Playground launched in 2023 with a first production run of just 5,000 units. Two years later, it has surpassed one million consoles sold and even outsold the Xbox for Black Friday week. In this fireside chat, Nex Co-Founder and CEO David Lee joins us, alongside his colleague and an entrepreneur with deep roots in the kids' digital industry, to talk about the decisions, pivots, and strategies behind Nex's remarkable rise and what lessons the rest of our industry can take away.



Maxeme Tuchman
(Dark Horse Ops, ex-Mattel)



David Lee
(Nex)



Arleigh Greenwald
(Nex)

11:15 - 11:30 AM

It's Game Time, again, with Barry and Jade!



Barry McLaughlin
Barry & Jason Games



Jade Wolf
Barry & Jason Games



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kidTECH Agenda - Day 2 (Wednesday)

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Key Principles When Designing AI-Powered Experiences for Kids

As AI becomes embedded in the online products kids use every day, the challenge isn't just innovation. The experience also needs to be high quality, genuinely age-appropriate, and lasting. Real-world examples will illustrate what works (and what doesn't), giving builders, designers, and product leaders the tools to create AI-powered experiences that kids love and that parents and regulators can stand behind.



Carla Engelbrecht
(AI Meets ABCs; formerly with Netflix, Sesame Workshop)

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Lunch + Roundtable Sessions

Grab some food and find a table with a topic you're interested in. Fancy another topic? No worries, feel free to move around, or if you're bored, get some fresh air on the rooftop terrace.

Roundtable topics will include:

(1) Safety: A discussion of content appropriateness in child-directed products, including moderation challenges for AI products and user-generated content.
Moderators: Mo Sadek (Alice, formerly ActiveFence), Josh Thurman (AngelQ)

(2) Privacy: Big developments in new federal, state, and international laws regulating online privacy for children and teens.
Moderators: Akhil Bhardwaj (kidSAFE), Debora Fiore (kidSAFE)

(**3) Security:** Technical and procedural cybersecurity considerations for kids' websites, apps, and connected products.
Moderators: Doug Hughes (TÜV Rheinland), Jonathan Chandler (kidSAFE)

(4) Free-for-all Networking: This is the roundtable designated purely for networking and chatting about whatever's on your mind. No moderators necessary :-)



Akhil Bhardwaj
kidSAFE



Jonathan Chandler
kidSAFE



Debora Fiore
kidSAFE



Mo Sadek
Alice



Josh Thurman
AngelQ



Doug Hughes
TÜV Rheinland

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kidTECH Agenda - Day 2 (Wednesday)

1:30 - 2:20 PM

A Hodgepodge of kidTECH: Comparing Notes Across Verticals

What do ed-tech, health-tech, toy-tech, and AI-tech have in common in the kids' and family digital space? More than you'd think! After all, they're all selling to the same demographic, navigating the same regulatory constraints, vying for the same shelf space (physical or digital), and trying to earn a place in the same kids' routines. This panel brings together operators from radically different corners of kids' tech to compare playbooks, including marketing, distribution, and even go-to-market strategies. Expect candid cross-pollination and a few "wait, you do that too?" moments.



Maxeme Tuchman (Mod)
(Dark Horse Ops, ex-Caribu @ Mattel)



Jeff Piontek
(Kibeam Learning)



Eric Covert
(GoNoodle)



Yolanda Ha
(Kido AI)



Josh Thurman
(AngelQ)

2:20 - 2:45 PM

Short Game Break!



2:45 - 3:30 PM

Beyond Screens -- The Power of Offline Play in a Digital Age

While online experiences tend to dominate the youth and family market these days, offline play – such as board games, fidget toys, collectibles, and accessories – also continues to thrive. What's driving the enduring appeal of a well-crafted card game, party game, or satisfying tactile toy in an era of infinite scroll? In this panel, Barry will talk with representatives from some of the most beloved names in physical play, exploring what makes screenless products successful, how they foster creativity and social interaction, and how their core principles can inspire the design of innovative online experiences, as well.



Barry McLaughlin (Mod)
(Barry & Jason Games)



Daisy Lidz-Ritz
(Exploding Kittens)



David McGranaghan
(McMiLLER)

3:30 - 3:50 PM

Smoothie Pit Stop



Refuel with a smoothie out on the rooftop terrace, find an old or new friend, and have a good schmooze.

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kidTECH Agenda - Day 2 (Wednesday)

3:50 - 4:40 PM

Tech for Good!

This panel is a staple of the kidTECH micro-conference and is back this year by popular demand! Over the past few years, dozens of initiatives have been launched to develop creative tech solutions for modern-day challenges faced by children and students, whether physically, mentally, socially, academically, or religiously. But there are just a few standout products doing exceptional work and making a real impact in this space. Hear from these companies on what it takes to build "tech for good!"



Hege Tokerud (Mod)
(Aiba)



Kristina Jones
(Guardian Lane)



Jonathan Zweifler
(Reed AI) - virtual



Michael Kramer
(EchoBridge)



Ognjen Todic
(Keen Research)

4:40 - 5:00 PM - Closing Remarks & Goodbyes



Shai Samet
(kidSAFE Seal)

kidSAFE's mission is to improve the Internet and digital ecosystem for children and families around the world.

We do this by partnering with companies of all sizes to help ensure their child-focused apps and technologies are safely designed and privacy compliant.

If you'd like to learn more about the kidSAFE Seal Program, please email us at shai+kidtech@kidsafe.com.

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Dear Guest,

Thank you for coming to kidTECH Los Angeles! We're thrilled that you've joined us for our eighth kidTECH Event, here at The Petersen Automotive Museum. We've spent months preparing the day for you to ensure you leave with fresh perspectives, new ideas, and renewed confidence that you're part of a tribe of makers, storytellers, industry definers, and operators who want to make the Internet and digital ecosystem for children and families better!

But it's important that you do more than sit back and take it all in. kidTECH is designed to be an interactive 2-day micro-conference, and everyone benefits from your engagement. So, let's go!

Sincerely,
Shai Samet & the kidSAFE team

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