Get Started with Coding

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Learning to code is more popular than ever, and it's never been easier for teachers to get started. Code is everywhere in our world, and even a little bit of coding literacy can take kids a long way. Beyond digital literacy, the *process* of learning to code can support skills that are valuable across a variety of subjects. What's more, giving *all* students an introduction to coding opens up opportunities for more women and minorities to pursue computer science careers.

Tips for Teaching Coding in Your Classroom

- **Learn along with your students:**
  - Even without coding experience, just about any teacher can lead beginning-level lessons.
  - Many of the best tools use visual, drag-and-drop games and puzzles.
  - Show students how you learn something new! Regardless of your expertise, use learn-to-code lessons as an opportunity to model a growth mindset.
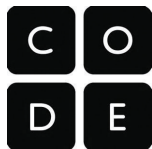
- **Help *students* become experts with a student-led knowledge base:**
  - Everyone's bound to work at their own pace — promote a collaborative environment where students can help each other.
  - A physical bulletin board on your classroom wall could do the trick, or it could even be an online class FAQ page.
  - Kids who work ahead can offer support to others and also reinforce their own learning.

- **Let students' own interests drive their learning:**
  - Tap into kids' intrinsic motivation. It's a great way to get them engaged, *and* it helps them persevere as they meet challenges along the way.
  - Encourage kids to become *producers* — not just consumers — of digital content. They'll be even more motivated to figure out how it's all made.

Suggested Tools

Code.org
Popular games, big names get kids and teachers pumped to program
www.commonsense.org/ education/website/codeorg

Scratch
Jump-start future programmers with adaptive sandbox tool
www.commonsense.org/ education/website/scratch

Made with Code
Enticing projects and inspiring videos offer anyone an intro to coding
www.commonsense.org/ education/website/made-with-code