

Get Started with Coding

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.common sense.org/
education/website/codeorg](http://www.common sense.org/education/website/codeorg)



Scratch

Jump-start future programmers with adaptive sandbox tool

[www.common sense.org/
education/website/scratch](http://www.common sense.org/education/website/scratch)



Made with Code

Enticing projects and inspiring videos offer anyone an intro to coding

[www.common sense.org/
education/website/made-with-code](http://www.common sense.org/education/website/made-with-code)