



Child's Play



Newsletter



Welcome back to Child's Play—where [KinderLab Robotics](#) delves into early childhood education, robotics and technology. Today we share news about our chief-scientist and co-founder Marina Umaschi Bers; review some of your thoughts on coding; and hear from Debbie Rogers of the Riverside Presbyterian Day School in Florida.

Is there something you'd like to see here next month? Are you a KIBO customer who'd like to be featured in 'View from the classroom'? Then [get in touch today](#).

Happy reading,

Mitch Rosenberg
Co-founder and CEO, KinderLab Robotics

Reboot

We share regular news and views with parents, teachers and technology enthusiasts via our [blog](#). We also use it to gather opinions on edtech, coding and robotics.

We've asked a series of questions on our blog to date. Recently we turned our

line of questioning to parents to ask them about their level of comfort when helping their children learn about technology. The question was: ['As a parent, are you worried about your ability to teach your child to code?'](#)

The results:

- A quarter said outright 'yes', they were worried about their ability to teach their child to code
- Around a quarter said that they felt they could explain the basics
- An eighth said that they hoped their children would learn about technology in school
- Just over a third—who identified themselves as technical professionals—said they weren't worried

KIBO was specifically created with children aged 4-7 years old in mind. But we also created KIBO for the parents, teachers and even grandparents who will be purchasing and playing with the robot kit alongside children. KIBO's familiar wooden blocks and straightforward scanning and sequencing steps are simple. There are no screens and no code. In fact there are no technical barriers at all.

We hope to introduce logic and programming into as many homes and classrooms as we can to enrich the lives of all ages.

To take a look at other recent blog poll questions, please visit our blog [here](#).

View from the classroom

[Riverside Presbyterian Day School](#)

Debbie Rogers is the Director of Instructional Digital Design at the Riverside Presbyterian Day School in Jacksonville, Florida. She kindly took the time to speak with us about her class and how her students are working with KIBO.

Debbie came across KinderLab Robotics and KIBO following the introduction of Scratch Jr. to her school. After meeting with our team, hearing about the research behind KIBO's development and seeing KIBO in action, Debbie knew that KIBO

would be a great fit.

"To me, what really makes it powerful is that it's designed developmentally, not just to be a marketable product. The research and the physicality of the wooden blocks are comfortable to a traditional teacher," said Debbie about her choice to invest in KIBO for her school.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School is dedicated to introducing coding to children. This year more children and teachers are spending time on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math), and have access to a designated STEAM room at the school. Debbie, her team, and the teachers promote a broader design systems mindset amongst the students without a focus on specifics such as coding fundamentals. From these programs children learn creatively to understand sequences and to solve problems systematically. With KIBO the Riverside Presbyterian Day School cultivates curiosity for the technical world, teaches problem solving and helps students to learn hands-on concepts such as cause-and-effect, sequencing and loops.

For the full story, please visit the blog [here](#).

Bits, bytes and (wooden) blocks

Many of you already know that our co-founder and chief-scientist, Marina Umaschi Bers, is a trailblazer in the research and development of learning technologies. As a Massachusetts-based company, we're honored and proud to announce that Marina was named as one of the [Boston Business Journal's 2015 Women to Watch](#) in Science and Technology.

Marina has been honored not only for her work here with us at KinderLab Robotics but also for her work as a professor at [Tufts University](#). This week at the Westin Waterfront hotel Marina will accept her award alongside many [noteworthy industry peers](#).

Gale Murray, publisher of the Boston Business Journal, put it best when she said: "Boston is a global leader in technology and the life sciences, and nowhere in the

world are there more bright and powerful women poised to improve our lives and our communities than in Greater Boston."

Where's KIBO?

KIBO and the KinderLab Robotics team have been jet-setting worldwide over the last month. It's been a great month of meeting new people and sharing KIBO. Thank you to everyone.

We started close to home at the [Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services Veterans Spring Fling event](#) where [children of military families had fun coding with KIBO](#) and making new friends.



KIBO also took part in the [Cambridge Science Festival](#).

Last month we shared some details about our in-person KIBO training sessions. These continue to be well received and are very popular with many local teachers and educators coming in to build their own technology-based programs for their classrooms. You can [join us on May 9th for the next session](#).

Marina and KIBO are still unpacking their bags from [taking the stage at STEAM Barcelona](#) a two-day event bringing together research, methodology, and practices from around the world that are improving the lives and STEAM education of children. Visit out our [Facebook page to see some of the updates](#).