Child's Play

KinderLab robotics

Dear reader,

It's been a busy start to the New Year for KinderLab Robotics! In addition to fulfilling KIBO orders and attending events such as Retail's BIG Show and FETC 2015, we are moving our facilities. This month we will be set up in a new manufacturing and office space just outside Boston. We'll be sharing news, photos and other updates this month.

We'd like to take a moment to give thanks for your support. We have been working hard in our mission to bring developmentally-appropriate programming technology to young children, and we couldn't do it without you. Whether you met us at an event, attended our class with KIBO, subscribed to this newsletter to get to know us better, or you have a KIBO at home or in your school - thank you to each of you.

If you'd like your very own KIBO, take a moment to browse our online store here.

With warmest regards,

Mitch Rosenberg
Co-founder and CEO, KinderLab Robotics

Getting creative with KIBO

Now that KIBO is 'out in the wild', we asked you to tweet us images of your robot in action and we've had so much fun seeing children's creativity come to life. Take a look at some of the submissions below and if you haven't yet, don't forget to show us how you code with KIBO at @KinderLabRobot.

View from the classroom

MassCAN

Each month, we bring you a real-world example of coding with KIBO. Today, we share the experiences of Kelly Powers, director of Computer Science Teacher Leadership for MassCAN.

MassCAN, or the Massachusetts Computing Attainment Network, is an organization focused on expanding computer science education in grades K-12. Kelly found KIBO through the Computer Science Teacher Association (CSTA) and introduced it to children at various National Computer Science Education Week events, including the Community Hour of Code events in Natick and Marlborough, where KIBO captivated children and adults.

Previously, Kelly has worked with older children on computational thinking using Scratch, Alice, StarLogo, Calico Scribblers and more. Her quest to bring programming logic to a younger set of students made KIBO an easy decision.

For the full story, please see our blog here.

Bits, bytes and (wooden) blocks

Sequencing matters. This viewpoint is shared by us and Jack McDermott, the author of a recent EdSurge piece. As you may know, our co-founder and chief scientist, Marina Umaschi Bers, is a professor at Tufts University. While studying as part of Marina's group, Jack travelled to first grade classrooms teaching computer programming. He was also privy to the development of KIWI, our initial prototype and precursor to KIBO.

The 'why' is obvious. Technology is increasingly ingrained and embedded in our day-to-day life. Children need to learn programming, and be able to think in a way that works with technology. Jack, quite rightly, points out that the challenge is more about the 'how': how can we give children a "leg up" when it comes to computational thinking? Sequencing may be the answer.

Jack explains sequencing as: "the ability for children to comprehend how individual events are ordered within a chain of events." This is integral to child development for a number of reasons including the seemingly mundane - putting shoes on before socks - and the bigger picture, such as the harvesting of programming skills and logical reasoning.

Take a look at Jack's full piece here.

Where's KIBO?

Last month KIBO made its way to New York City for the 104th annual 'Retail's BIG Show' held by the National Retail Federation. Attendees who stopped by the Zebra Technologies booth were able to code with KIBO and learn more about our OEM relationship with the company.

Happy to have a brief reprieve from the Boston cold for the Florida sun, some of our team hopped on a plane for FETC 2015. This huge education technology event presented us with the opportunity to network with fellow education leaders and technology experts and introduce KIBO and its benefits.

The DevTech group at the Eliot Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development, at Tufts University, is hosting a FREE KIBO workshop for Boston-based parents and teachers on February 25th. Register today: bit.ly/KIBOWorkshop.