Child's Play

KinderLab robotics

Newsletter

Hi,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of KinderLab Robotics' monthly newsletter, Child's Play.

We're excited to share all the research-based innovation and fun we bring to parents, children and educators. The concept of introducing technology in a tangible way, supported by our KIBO robot kit, allows children to apply logic, build a robot, express themselves, and develop core programming concepts.

As we've moved from our successful Kickstarter to assembling KIBO here in Massachusetts, it's been great to engage with new audiences and we look forward to sharing news, updates and insights with you.

With warmest regards,

Mitch Rosenberg
Co-founder and CEO, KinderLab Robotics

Reboot

There have been several developments surrounding children and technology that have caught our eye recently.

The UK press has been actively covering children and programming since the UK government made coding a compulsory part of the curriculum for children from five years old.

And while the BBC may boast the winning of an award by British children, journalist and author Geraldine Bedell wrote about the difficulties of coding education in the UK Huffington Post with a strongly-worded piece titled: 'Children and Tech: We're Making a Mess of It'.

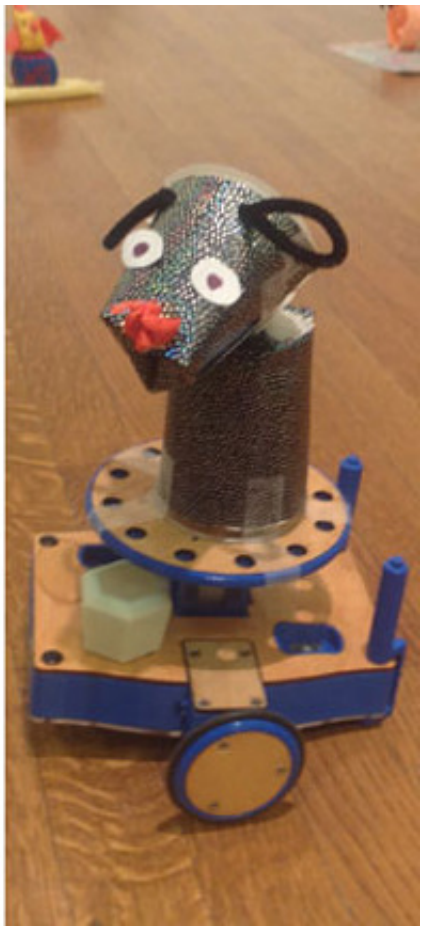
A piece in the Independent discusses Graham Brown-Martin, an education technology guru who has travelled the globe to uncover examples of Information Communications and Technologies (ICT) in learning. Brown-Martin reflects that technology alone does not equal transformation, and that it's important children have the opportunity to explore and reflect.

We'd urge any of you interested in the role of open-ended play and creativity to read a thought-provoking piece by Marina Umaschi Bers entitled 'Playgrounds and Playpens' explaining the diversity of roles that new technologies can play in our lives.

Getting creative with KIBO

We designed KIBO for open-ended play. With KIBO children can make anything —characters, dancers, helicopters. They make KIBO play a part in their story. Here's some of the themes and costumes that KIBO has been 'wearing'.





Bits, bytes and (wooden) blocks

If you haven't met KIBO yet, the holidays may be the perfect opportunity to get acquainted. As the first robots are being produced in Massachusetts we are repackaging the KIBO robot kits with some new block sets. You can find out more here.

These robot kits are developed for four to seven year-olds to hook their interest in technology and programming whether they are more arts-inclined or already have a technical mindset. It's their robot: they build it, program it, decorate it and control it - all while helping them develop tangible skills without screen time. Open-ended play is hugely impactful to a child's development at this age; KIBO

allows them to create a helicopter, a character from a book or a dancer, along with anything else their imaginations drum up.

With programming sequences created with simple blocks, and not on smartphones, laptops, tablets or any other device, KIBO is backed by research, including testing with over 300 children and 50 teachers.

It could be the season to "ho-ho-hone" the concepts of computer programming.

KIBO in the press

Don't take it from us. See why the press appreciates KIBO.

Forbes noted that KIBO has had: "success across the board among children despite the varied backgrounds in family income and even neurological differences such as children with executive functioning impairments." Forbes also shared that KIBO's traits "intrinsically support creativity and inquiry."

The New York Times had a chance to meet KIBO in person, and loved its dance moves (we don't blame them).

Robotics Trends shared that: "what distinguishes KIBO from some of its competitors is that it manifests in a low-tech, age-appropriate way, with no use of computers, tablets, cellphones or screens."

BostInno highlighted that KIBO "engages students' creative and technical side".

At LifeHack, Michael Cheng thinks KIBO "is important because the earlier children grasp how programming works, the better they will fare in choosing a productive path in school." Cheng was also excited by how hands-on KIBO is, stating that it "makes the educational side of programming tangible."

Where's KIBO?

We were on the road and headed South.
We spent last week at:

The Innovate Mississippi 15th Annual Conference on Technology Innovation
Marina Umaschi Bers: Luncheon keynote speaker
Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m.
Jackson Convention Complex, 105 Pascagoula St., Jackson, MS
http://innovate.ms/event/15th-annual-conference-on-technology-innovation

TEDx Jackson
Marina Bers: Guest speaker
Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Capri Theatre, 3023 N. State St., Jackson, MS
http://www.tedxjackson.com/about

Click here to see KIBO and attendees doing the hokey pokey!