



# Child's Play



Newsletter



Dear Reader,

Hello, and welcome to the May 2016 issue of Child's Play!

Summer is just around the corner, and another school year comes to an end. We are so happy that KIBO has been a part of that year for so many students, all around the world. We have loved seeing the classroom pictures and videos shared on Twitter (hashtag

[#KIBORobot!](#)) and the experiences and stories shared with us on our new [KIBO Resources](#) website.

In this issue of Child's Play, we have an excerpt from one of those classroom stories; a KIBO collaboration between third graders and Kindergarteners at Friends Seminary in New York City. We also have an article about President Obama's exciting new Early STEM Learning initiative, in which we are very proud to participate!

One of the things that makes KIBO special is the ability to build onto, decorate, and dress up your robot. KIBO's openness helps bring art and engineering into robotics, provides diverse curriculum options, and allows kids to express themselves while learning computational thinking. We are excited to say that we are about to launch a new add-on module for KIBO which we're calling the **Expression Module**. This is a new attachment which will allow KIBO to carry signs, flags, and other decorations. We're excited about the possibilities this new module will open up; complete details will be coming soon in another email!

As always, thank you for reading and don't forget to stay in touch on Twitter ([@KinderLabRobot](#)) and Facebook ([Facebook.com/KinderLabRobotics](#)).

Mitch Rosenberg  
Co-founder and CEO, KinderLab Robotics

## KIBO at the White House!

Our co-founder Dr. Marina Bers brought KIBO to the White House, as part of the President's STEM Starts Early initiative!

Back in March, Roberto Rodríguez, Deputy Assistant to the President for Education, announced an [initiative to support early STEM learning](#) in American schools, communities, and homes. At KinderLab, of course, we are huge advocates of early STEM learning so we were excited to be asked to participate!



As part of this initiative, the White House organized an "Early STEM Learning Symposium," gathering companies, organizations, and researchers working in this field to present and discuss. Our co-founder Marina Bers was invited, and she spoke on the topic of the state of research into early STEM

learning. As part of the symposium, Marina shared KIBO with education department officials and other symposium attendees. What an honor! And thanks to the White House's video archive, you can [watch Marina's talk](#) (jump to the 36:00 mark).

In support of the STEM Starts Early initiative, KinderLab Robotics has also committed to expand the resources available on our Resources website (<http://resources.kinderlabrobotics.com>). Our aim in providing these resources is to make it easier for teachers and parents to use KIBO and to inspire new and creative uses.

You can follow the ongoing conversation on twitter at hashtag [#STEMStartsEarly!](#)

## View from the Classroom: Third Graders introduce KIBO to Kindergarten Buddies

When older children mentor younger ones, it allows both groups to engage in new ways. KIBO is especially well suited to this cross-age collaboration because of the intuitive engineering and concrete programming.

Our latest View from the Classroom comes from Judith Seidel, Lower School Technology Integrator at [Friends Seminary](#) in New York City. Judith first tried KIBO with a group of third graders; those third grade trailblazers then helped the Kindergarten classes learn to use KIBO. Below is an excerpt from Judith's write-up of her experience; you can [read Judith's full article at our Resources website!](#)



"The plan was for the third grade tech students to become facile with our fleet of five KIBOs, develop some sample programs, and create original outfits. During their scheduled time with their kindergarten buddies, the third graders would introduce the five and six-year-olds to KIBO. In their Tech class, I asked the third graders to come up with three sample programs for the kindergartners:

one easy, one medium and one that they considered hard.

"Despite any logistical or technical problems we encountered along the way, on the day we were to go to the kindergartners with KIBO, excitement ran high. Watching the kindergartners get to know KIBO with their buddies was a delight for me and the homeroom teachers who were there. In addition, new opportunities for learning through troubleshooting arose as the third graders taught their buddies about KIBO.

"By the end of this project, the third graders had been exposed to fundamental programming concepts such as "if", "until" and "forever," and they learned about the importance of proper syntax. They had done a lot of on-the-fly troubleshooting. We talked about these concepts and fixes as an entire group. In creating outfits, the costumers were beginning to solve their engineering



problems such as how to get a costume to stand up straight like a ship's figurehead or the face of Thomas the Train, or how to create an overhang on the art platform that did not interfere with KIBO's controls or scanning mechanism. Furthermore, Kindergarteners at Friends Seminary can't wait till their next robot buddy time."

-Judith Seidel, Friends Seminary

*Do you have advice, ideas, or experiences with KIBO that you'd like to share? Please visit our [KIBO Resources website](#) and click the **Submit Yours** button to share!*

## Where's KIBO?

- At the Centro Ann Sullivan Panama school (CASPAN), KIBO is the focus of a research project into collaboration and problem solving by kids with autism. The results so far have been promising and we're following this with excitement! You can read more in [an article in Panama's La Estrella newspaper](#).
- In our last issue of Child's Play we mentioned that educators at the International School of Billund (started by the Lego Foundation) were exploring the engineering and construction side of KIBO. Tufts' Amanda Strawhacker has put together a [great summary video about her work at ISB](#).
- Tufts University has launched a new Early Childhood Technology (ECT) certificate program! As Tufts explains, the program is "designed for educators and practitioners working with young children in pre-kindergarten through second grade in diverse educational settings such as schools, museums, libraries, and daycares." KIBO and ScratchJr are at the heart of this exciting new four-course certification program. More information, including admission information for Fall 2016, is at <http://go.tufts.edu/ECT>.
- We have a full-day training session scheduled for June 18, 9:00–3:00, at KinderLab's training facility in Waltham, MA. Come learn how to use KIBO and how to integrate robotics and engineering into your curriculum with our

**Tufts University** | Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

**Early Childhood Technology Certificate**  
Blended Online & On-Campus Program

A one-year graduate program preparing you to:

- Work with young children pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Teach coding, robotics, and new technologies
- Implement a developmentally appropriate and playful approach

**Key Features:**

- Open to anyone interested in children and technology—not just teachers!
- Tight pedagogically online to promote flexibility
- On-campus summit allows for making lasting connections with culture and faculty and gaining supervised experience teaching young children
- Graduate-level academic credit from Tufts University

**Why Choose the Early Childhood Technology Certificate Program?**

- To understand how children learn with technology through integrated curricula that includes the arts and literacy as well as STEM
- Develop teaching practices to use new technologies in early childhood settings
- Informed by over a decade and a half of work by the DevTech Research Group, the creator of the KIBO robotics kit, and co-creator of the ScratchJr programming language ([ase.tufts.edu/DevTech/](http://ase.tufts.edu/DevTech/))

**APPLY NOW!**  
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**DevTech**  
Research Group

expert trainers! Registration and more info at

<http://bit.ly/KinderLabTraining>.

- Our friends at Tufts DevTech are also offering a KIBO training workshop later in the summer (August 9). There is an option to attend for two days to also learn about ScratchJr. More information on that session is at [our events calendar](#).
- And don't miss our upcoming free webinar! Join Dr. Amanda Sullivan for our half-hour session "Ready for Robotics", on June 8. [Register now for free!](#)

## Did You Know?



With some clothespins, tape, or other clever engineering, you could attach a marker to the back of your KIBO. Set the marker-bearing KIBO loose on some large pieces of paper, and KIBO will draw! Kids can explore the interplay between KIBO's program and the resulting drawing.

*This idea came to us courtesy of Peter Schaffer; check out his project ideas forum at [kiboprojects.com](http://kiboprojects.com). Thank you, Peter!*



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