Child's Play

KinderLab robotics

Newsletter

Dear Reader,

Hello, and welcome to the September 2017 issue of Child's Play! We hope the new school year is off to a great start and all the youngsters are back into their routine!

We invite you to read the feature story below from Robin Ricketts at The Steward School on how second graders use KIBO to bring Greek Mythology lessons to life. Yet another example of how KIBO can be used within any curriculum.

Another feature is a video submission from Dr. Deborah Carlson on how she uses KIBO with preschool aged children and their teachers.

We hope to see many of you at one of our upcoming events (7 new events added before the end of the year!). In addition, check out the extensive KIBO coverage in national publications (you can even see me on the CBS 6 o'clock news!), attend one of the two new upcoming training events, hear more about the launch of Marina's new book, and much more!

We are also bringing back KIBO Tips – where we share a cool way to use KIBO. Listen to the "harmonic" video tip below.

As always, thank you for reading and please stay in touch on Twitter ([@KinderLabRobot](#)) and Facebook ([Facebook.com/KinderLabRobotics](#)).

Mitch Rosenberg
Co-Founder and CEO

View from the Classroom - 2nd Grade Instruction

We were thrilled when Robin Ricketts, Computational Thinking and Robotics Teacher from The Steward School in Richmond, VA submitted an "Experience" on our Resources

site, where educators submit their exciting work with KIBO and share it with other educators. **Learn how The Steward School is using KIBO during their Greek Mythology Curriculum.**

"We wanted to plan an experience that allowed the children to bring their own ideas and creativity to the table while constructing a project that was personally meaningful."

When the teachers asked to collaborate on an integrated study of Greek myths, KIBOs were offered as tool to foster the engineering design process, creativity, collaboration, and computational thinking. The second grade teachers decided KIBO was the perfect tool to tie everything together.

In this integrated STEAM lesson, students were tasked to creatively design a Greek myth character with craft materials and then place their creations on top of their student-assembled KIBOs. The students, who had also written their own versions of familiar myths, programmed their decorated KIBO to travel through their "story spaces".

The students gathered around each story map as the authors ran their KIBO programs and read their accompanying scripts. When the students debriefed the whole project, the teachers were surprised that almost every group talked about their strategies for collaborating on story writing, robot construction, map drawing, and how to program the KIBO.

Read Robin's full KIBO experience!

View from the Classroom - Pre-K Students

Watch Dr. Deborah Carlson instruct her PreK students to learn STEAM concepts with KIBO! Dr. Carlson is from the Robotics and Programming for Pre-K (RAPP) initiative at the Florida Institution of Education at the University of North Florida. This video shows how children of this young age grasp concepts related to estimating and programming.

1/2 Day Training Sessions Announced

We are offering two introductory half-day training sessions this fall – **Saturday, October 7th and Saturday, November 4th** in our Waltham, MA KIBO factory. Get hands-on with KIBO and start building a curriculum for your school or program – and have fun doing it!

You will leave with ideas, excitement and a program best-suited for you. Learn and share best practices and come up with activities to use when you return to your classroom, library, museum, or other program.

Sign up today!

Putting it to the Seymour Test

Read Marina Umaschi Bers' newest published article in the International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction Journal, entitled *"The Seymour test: Powerful ideas in early*

childhood education". In the article Marina describes how Seymour Papert guided her efforts in her design of the programming environments KIBO and ScratchJr. Marina designed both tools to help children learn to code in a playful way so they could engage in computational thinking and encounter powerful ideas. Marina states that she kept asking herself "will these tools pass "The Seymour test"? Read on for more!
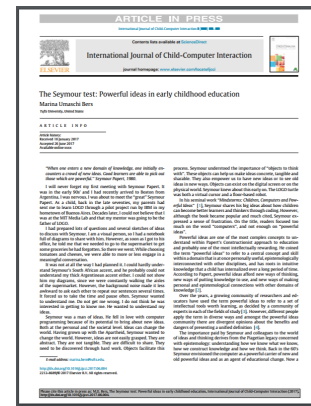
"Coding as A Playground" Released!
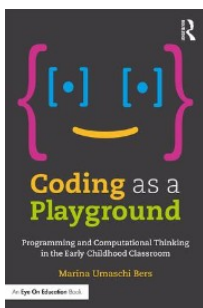
Marina's new book *Coding as a Playground: Programming and Computational Thinking in the Early Childhood Classroom* has been [released](#)! It is the first book to focus on how young children (ages 7 and under) can engage in computational thinking and be taught to become computer programmers, a process that can increase both their cognitive and social-emotional skills.

Order the book today from [Routledge Publishing](#) or [Amazon](#) today!

KIBO Tip - KIBO Harmonizes!

Did you know that KIBO can sing? Check out this KIBO Tip that shows KIBO Harmonizing! Try it for yourself with the [Sound Record/Playback Module](#)!

Conference Corner

Stop by and meet the KinderLabbers at one of the events this coming up and give KIBO a spin for yourself:

- UT STEM Fest – Salt Lake City, UT – Oct. 3 & 4
- EarlyEdCon – Burlington, MA – Oct. 21st
- GA STEM Conference – Athens, GA – Oct. 23 & 24
- GAETC – Atlanta, GA – Nov. 8 – 10
- Annual CT State Superintendents Conference – Groton, CT – November 17th
- NAEYC – Atlanta, GA – Nov. 15 – 18
- CA STEAM Conference – San Francisco, CA – Dec. 10 – 11

KIBO in the News

Check out some of our new news where KIBO has been featured!

- CBS News – KIBO Appears Live from Kids & Family Tech Expo
- Getting Smart – Using Robots to Teach Elementary Students About Human Nature
- EdTech Digest – Putting the 'Fun' in Fundamental Concepts
- Tinkercademy – Early Childhood Computer Science Education Observations from Working with Early Childhood Classrooms in the U.S. and Singapore
- Business Insider – A top engineer says robots are starting to enter pre-K and kindergarten alongside kids
- The Edvocate – What Robots Can Teach Kindergarteners
- Simple K12 – 5 Reasons to Include Robotics in Early STEM Education

Don't forget to order your Sound Record/Playback Module and give your KIBO a voice!

Want to share your experiences with KIBO?

We love to hear from our customers and learn some of the interesting and creative things they are doing with KIBO. Please check out the KIBO Resources website to see

the classroom stories and activity ideas submitted by teachers.

[Share your own stories, ideas and insights](#) **to help inspire others for this new school year!**

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