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Extraordinary Apps* That Will Help You Teach Your Students How To Code



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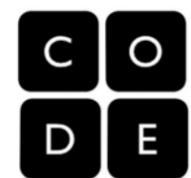
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Why did we compile this list of the 11 best apps for learning how to code? Because learning to code at school generates important educational and social capital. Knowing how to code—in other words, knowing how to program a computer—means understanding something about the world that surrounds us and being somewhat more prepared to occupy it. Technology is everywhere, so it stands to reason that we should know at least a little about how it works. The 11 best apps listed here include the code.org site, an essential source. It provides mobile versions of apps for tablets that can be opened from the home screen. The listed apps are all user-friendly tools that can be used for teaching or just for fun, at school and anywhere else. Not only do they teach children how to code, they also foster creativity and critical thinking. On your mark, get set, code!



SCRATCH



1. Swift Playgrounds. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/swift-playgrounds/id908519492?mt=8>

Released by Apple, this is one of the best apps for learning to code. It also has one of the most appealing interfaces. It's easy to use, and students can track their coding progress on the screen.

2. Scratch and Scratch Jr. <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Developed at MIT, Scratch is a game that initiates children to coding. As they play, they also develop math and computing skills. Students create and modify blocks of code represented by colored bricks that they move around and arrange.

3. Tickle. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tickle-program-drones-robots/id1063639403?mt=8>

Tickle was inspired by Scratch. Children learn how to program by controlling robots with names like LEGO, WeDo 2.0, BB-8, Dash & Dot and the drones Airborne Cargo and Sphero.

4. Tynker. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tynker-learn-to-code.-games/id805869467?mt=8>

Also inspired by Scratch, Tynker provides fun puzzles and step-by-step tutorials. Children can create their own games and quests as they learn to code.

5. Kodable. <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/kodable-k-5-coding-curriculum/id577673067?mt=8>

Kodable is a game that introduces coding to elementary students from age 4 up. It's a relatively user-friendly app used with iPad. Children place command lines in logical order to make furry aliens come to life and move them around a game board. They learn programming basics and eventually REAL JavaScript.

6. Cargo bot. <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/cargo-bot/id519690804?mt=8>

Cargo bot is a puzzle game where you teach a robot how to move crates. Students guide the robot's arms by dragging and dropping programming blocks. Programmed entirely on iPad, it can also be played directly on an iPhone.

7. Lightbot and Lightbot Jr. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lightbot-jr-4+-coding-puzzles/id858640629>

LightBot is an interactive game in which a robot is moved around a grid. Children have to program the robot so that it lights up all the blue tiles on the grid. Meanwhile, they're acquiring some computer programming basics. It comes in a junior version for 4- to 8-year-olds and a regular version for older children.

8. Move the Turtle. <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/move-turtle.-programming-for/id509013878?mt=8>

Move the Turtle is a graphic app that lets children program a complex environment with graphics, spatial orientation, and sound. As they move the turtle around the screen, children are introduced to basic programming concepts step by step.

9. Hopscotch. <https://itunes.apple.com/fr/app/hopscotch-codage-pour-enfants/id617098629?mt=8>

Again inspired by Scratch, Hopscotch is meant for children aged 9 and up. Users drag and drop programming blocks to create their own games and programs.

10. Robot School. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/robot-school.-programming/id943154220?mt=8>

Robot School targets children aged 7 and up. When R-obbie the Robot crash lands on a distant planet, you have to drag and drop programming instructions in order to direct him to the fuel he needs to return home.

11. Code.org. <https://code.org/>

Code.org is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to expanding access to computer science to every child in every school around the world. Not an app, it offers free computer science courses on its Code Studio. They are accessible online and via mobile devices. Contents include professional learning workshops for teachers, classes for students, tutorials for beginners, classroom lessons, teaching materials, educational apps, games, and more. They also organize activities such as the Hour of the Code.