

# Hour of Code Parent Guide

Anybody can learn  
December 7-13, 2020

# HOUR OF CODE

Introduce your child to computer science by trying an **Hour of Code!** Studies show: children who study computer science perform better in other subjects, excel at problem-solving, and are **17% more likely to enroll in college**.

Together, we can inspire kids to learn, break stereotypes, and help children discover a newfound interest. Best of all, it's simple to do the Hour of Code - even for beginners.

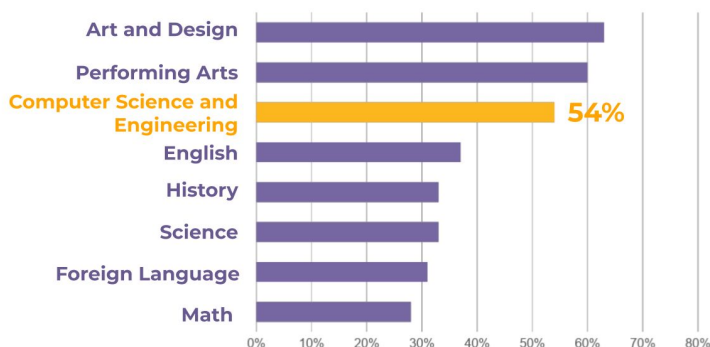
## Why the Hour of Code?

Participating in the Hour of Code is a great way to introduce your family to computer science, a subject that most schools just don't teach.

Computer science is a part of nearly every industry including healthcare, ecology, engineering, and the arts.

Plus, children love learning it! By starting with just one Hour of Code, you could spark a new interest in your child that leads to a lifelong passion. Get started today!

### Subjects students report liking "a lot"



## 1 Explore activities and tutorials

You don't need experience in CS or teaching to get your children learning and laughing. You can try the Hour of Code with a computer, a tablet, a smartphone, or completely unplugged!

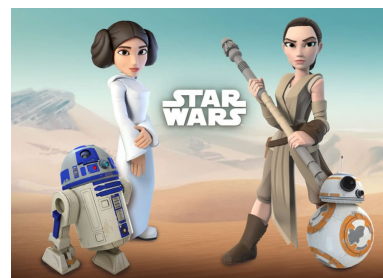
### Start by exploring activities. Some to try out:

For the child who **loves to play**: Minecraft or Dance Party

For the child who **loves Disney**: Star Wars, Frozen, or Moana

For the child who **loves to learn**: AI for Oceans or Make Music with Scratch

**Low-tech or no-tech?** Simply filter Hour of Code activities by selecting "No computers or devices" in the [Classroom technology](#) section.



## 2 What to prepare ahead of time

### Test your activity

Now that you have tutorials in mind, it may be helpful to try these activities on your device before introducing them to your child.

### More than one child at home?

For multiple devices, consider providing each child with headphones to avoid distractions.

Or, give pair programming a try! Using one device, have your children partner up to complete the activity together.

### Swag

For added fun, check out the t-shirts, stickers, and other items available at [Code.org/Shop](https://code.org/Shop).

## 3

## Tips for introducing your child to CS

Most schools don't teach computer science, so this may be your child's first time trying it. Here are some helpful tips to introduce your Hour of Code activity and make the most out of the experience.

**Inspire girls & young women**

Visit **Code.org/Girls** for proven tips on inspiring girls to try CS. Start today just by telling them they'd be great at it!

**Show them role models**

You can find a library of inspirational videos featuring celebrities and notable leaders at **HourofCode.com/Promote**.

**Discuss CS for Good**

Think about the technologies that impact our daily lives, and brainstorm new ideas! Find discussion topics at **Code.org/CSforGood**.

**Help them problem-solve**

If your child runs into challenges, it's okay for them to get frustrated. Help them "debug" the problem and think of creative solutions.

## 4

## Celebrate your Hour of Code

**Print Hour of Code Certificates** to award your child when they complete their activity.

**Find stickers and prizes** at **Code.org/Shop** as an added surprise for your child. You can also print stickers at home by visiting **HourofCode.com/Promote**.

**Share with us!** Share your experience and photos on social media with #HourOfCode.



## 5

## Keep learning - go beyond the Hour of Code!

**Continue learning online and at home**

Keep going with Code.org's online learning platform, where your child can continue their progress and learn at their own pace. Help them create an account or find more ideas to facilitate at home learning by visiting **Code.org/AtHome**

**Support computer science at your child's school**

Visit **Code.org/YourSchool** to find out if your child's school teaches computer science and find action steps you can take to help expand CS in their district.

**Help remove policy obstacles to computer science**

Code.org and its partners are working to change policies at the federal, state, and local level to increase access to computer science for all students. Learn about what's happening in your area and how you can help at **advocacy.code.org**.



"I challenge girls in every single country to learn one Hour of Code."

**Malala Yousafzai**

Nobel Peace Prize Winner

**Mark your calendars for  
December 7-13, 2020!**

**Start at [hourofcode.com](https://hourofcode.com)**

# Hour of Code Frequently Asked Questions

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**Still have questions?  
We have answers.**

## **Will the Hour of Code take a full hour?**

Many kids will be able to finish their activities in less than an hour, and that's okay! You can explore more tutorials or help your child create an account on Code.org to dive deeper into learning.

## **Do siblings have to do the same activity?**

Children can work on activities based on their level of experience or interests. As long as you have multiple devices, not every child has to do the same activity at the same time.

## **Can I do an Hour of Code outside of Computer Science Education Week?**

You can start an Hour of Code whenever you want. You don't even have to do it in December! The Hour of Code is a great learning experience any time of year.

## **I don't know anything about coding. Can I still guide my child through an Hour of Code?**

Of course. Hour of Code activities are self-guided. All you have to do is try our current tutorials, pick the tutorial you want, and pick an hour — we take care of the rest. We also have options for every age and experience level, from kindergarten and up.

## **What devices should I use for my kids?**

Code.org activities work on all devices and browsers. Tech needs for non-Code.org activities can be found on [code.org/learn](https://code.org/learn) in the specific activity's description. Don't forget: we also offer unplugged activities if your household can't accommodate the tech needs!

## **Do we need to log on using an account?**

No. Absolutely no signup or login is required for children to try the Hour of Code. Most of the follow-on courses require account creation to save student progress. Signing up for the Hour of Code does NOT automatically create a Code.org account.

## **How much can one learn in an hour?**

The goal of the Hour of Code is not to teach anybody to become an expert computer scientist in 60 minutes. One hour is only enough to learn that computer science is fun and creative, that it is accessible at all ages, and for all students, regardless of background. Millions of the participating teachers, families, and children have decided to go beyond one hour - to learn for a whole day or a whole week or longer, and many kids have decided to enroll in an entire course (or even a college major) as a result.

**Above all, what all participants can learn in an hour is that we can do this.**