

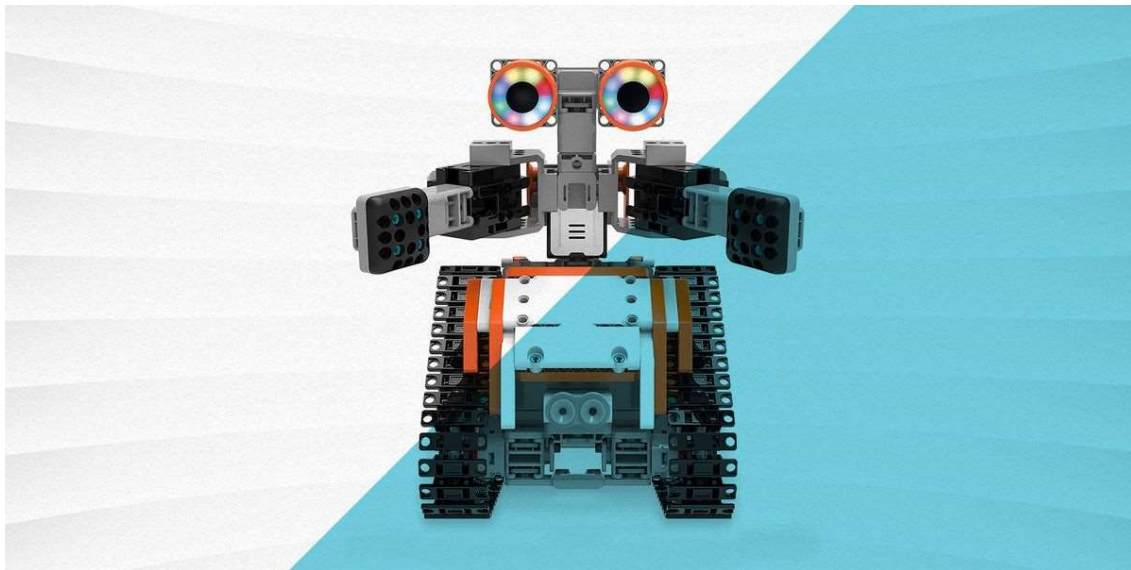
[New Technology](#) > [Robots](#)

# 10 Best Robot Toys for Kids That Make Learning STEM Fun

Your kids can practice STEM skills out of the classroom playing with these awesome robotics kits.



BY [RACHEL KLEIN](#) PUBLISHED: NOV 2, 2022



Staff, Courtesy of Ubtech

Back in the day, you likely learned some [STEM](#) skills from playing with [Lego blocks](#) and Lincoln Logs. As tech advances, so do toys. Now, Legos and other low-tech toys have combined with high-tech robots that help turn learning about engineering, coding, and math into fun. STEM-based school work is surely a part of your kid's curriculum, and these [toys](#) can reinforce those skills and give budding inventors the chance to be creative on their own outside the classroom.

But with so many robot toys on the market, choosing the one that's best for your kiddo can be a challenge. That's why we rounded up the best robotics kits for a wide range of ages — all of which make a great holiday gift. Read on for our recommendations, plus information on how robots keep kids engaged and entertained while learning.

## The Best Robot Toys for Kids

1



**BEST VALUE**

**Sillbird 12-in-1 Solar Robot Toy**

\$22 AT [AMAZON](#)

[Read more](#)

**FOR YOUNG ASTRONAUTS**

**JIMU AstroBot Series: Cosmos Kit**

2



\$90 AT AMAZON

[Read more](#)

3

**FOR TEACHING THE BASICS****Learning Resources Botley the Coding Robot Activity Set**

\$54 AT AMAZON

[Read more](#)

4

**BEST OVERALL****Lego Star Wars Droid Commander**

\$290 AT AMAZON

[Read more](#)

5

**GREAT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS****Wonder Workshop Dash Coding Robot**

\$136 AT AMAZON

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## What Kids Can Learn from Robotics

In addition to STEM literacy, studies are showing that robotics can encourage other skills, like hands-on creativity, problem solving, communication, and teamwork. So teaching robotics isn't just about setting up your kid to have a career as a computer programmer or engineer—it equips them with tech and problem-solving skills they'll need for practically any type of education or work.

And while you may think robotics clubs are only for middle and high schoolers, [research has shown](#) that, when robotics is introduced in pre-K to second grade, children are also able to master basic robotics and programming skills. Many of these robotics kits can be given to children as young as 3 years old, while some are more advanced for those 8 and up. Parents who don't know if their children are interested in a robotics kit can opt for one of the less expensive ones under \$50. More expensive options over \$100 offer more complexity and can often be customized to challenge kids as they get older and more experienced.

## How We Selected

During our research, we considered expert sources such as [Wirecutter](#), [Digital Trends](#), and [Tom's Guide](#) and combed through countless reviews. Each kit on this list was evaluated for its STEM education standards and also

for how intuitive, informative, and (just as importantly) fun it is for kids. We also considered a wide variety of toys to account for different kids' interests, age, and skill level, plus parents' budgets.

*For more **STEM** experience recommendations, check out our picks for the [best dinosaur toys](#), [ride-on toys](#), and [magnetic toys](#).*

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# 1

**BEST VALUE**

## **Sillbird 12-in-1 Solar Robot Toy**



Now 45% Off

\$22 AT AMAZON

#### PROS

- ⊕ 12 robots in one kit
- ⊕ Two levels to challenge kids
- ⊕ Teaches solar energy
- ⊕ No batteries required

#### CONS

- ⊗ Solar charging may be difficult

If you have really been on the search for a robot kit with great value and a variety of options, we've found it. This kit from Sillbird includes the pieces necessary to build 12 different robots.

There are two different levels of complexity, starting at an entry level then moving up to advanced. Plus, if your family is a little more environmentally conscious, this robot

is solar-powered only, meaning there are no batteries required. This toy will help your child develop dexterity and problem-solving skills. And you can't beat that price!

**KEY SPECS**

<b>Recommended Age Range</b>	10 years and up
<b>Assembly Required</b>	Yes
<b>Number of Pieces</b>	190

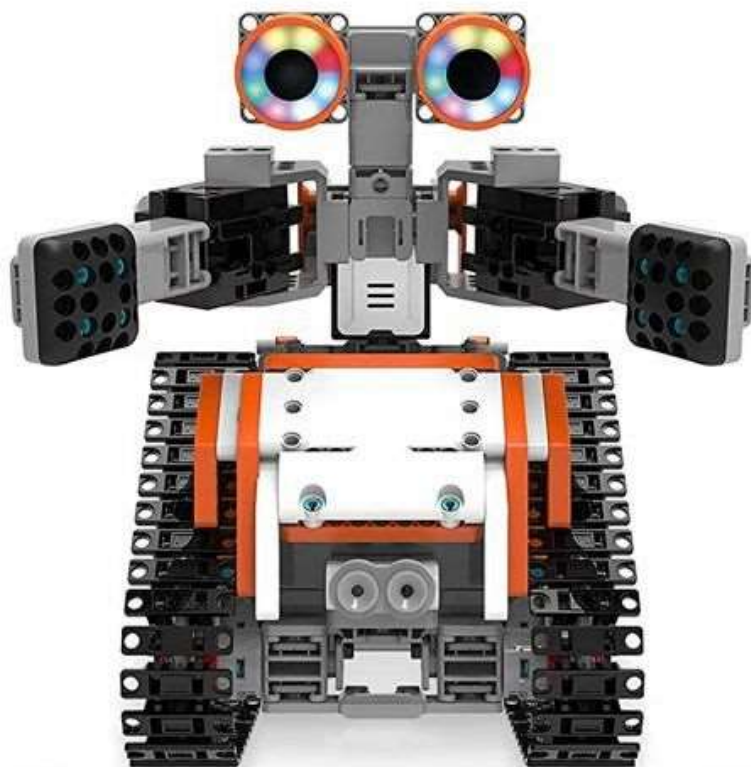
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# 2

**FOR YOUNG ASTRONAUTS**

## **JIMU AstroBot Series: Cosmos Kit**



Now 25% Off

\$90 AT AMAZON

#### PROS

- ⊕ Kids learn blockly coding to program the robot
- ⊕ Includes parts for three different robots

#### CONS

- ⊗ Some iOS/Android devices may not be compatible

With this kit, kids ages 8 and up can create three different cosmic robots—AstroBot, Rover, and Astron—or use their skills and imagination to build their own.

The kit's iOS- and Android-compatible app uses 3D animation to teach kids how to build the robots step-by-step. Then, after downloading the Blockly app or a similar block-coding language like Scratch, kids get to do the work. They can make the robots perform physical tasks like moving around objects, plus tweak light and sound effects and even give them personality traits.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	8 years and up
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	387

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3

FOR TEACHING THE BASICS

Learning Resources Botley the Coding Robot Activity Set



ON  
SALE



Now 27% Off

\$54 AT AMAZON

\$58 AT WALMART

\$71 AT WAYFAIR

#### PROS

- ⊕ Perfect for beginners
- ⊕ No screen time required
- ⊕ Easy-to-use remote programmer

#### CONS

This 77-piece activity set is reasonably priced and gives kids ages 5 and up a solid base for coding and robotics concepts. Botley the Coding Robot comes to life with an easy-to-use remote, so there are no apps to download (and no screen time).



The kit includes coding activity sheets along with plenty of fun accessories to create obstacle courses, plus kids can play with Botley right out of the box.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	5-8 years
Assembly Required	Ready-to-use
Number of Pieces	77

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BEST OVERALL

Lego Star Wars Droid Commander



\$290 AT AMAZON

\$399 AT WALMART

#### PROS

- ⊕ Three droids to build in one kit
- ⊕ 40 coding missions to complete
- ⊕ Compatible with Lego Boost Star Wars mobile app

#### CONS

You can always count on Legos to be fun and engaging—hence this toy earning our Best Overall designation—but this robot kit adds some coding elements to the classic toy. The 1,177-piece set includes three *Lego Star Wars* droids—R2-D2, Gonk Droid, and Mouse Droid—along with a color and distance sensor and an interactive motor. Kids can program the droids to embark on 40 different missions.

Like most robotics kits, it’s also compatible with its own smartphone app, called Lego Boost, available on iOS, Android, Kindle, and Windows 10 devices.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	8 years and up
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	1,177

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5

GREAT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS

Wonder Workshop Dash Coding Robot



Now 24% Off

\$136 AT AMAZON

**PROS**

- ⊕ Compatible with Lego
- ⊕ Compatible with most iOS/Android devices
- ⊕ 5 hours of playtime
- ⊕ Four free apps included

**CONS**

For parents who want to introduce kids to coding or build their skills, Wonder Workshop's Dash is a smart choice for kids ages 6 and up.

Compared to kits that require extensive building before they're up and running, Dash comes charged and ready for about 5 hours of playtime. The coding toy is compatible

with Lego and the set includes two building brick connectors, plus kids can add their own Lego bricks to make other creations.

There are also four free apps to download that take kids from beginner concepts to more advanced ones.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	6-11 years
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	N/A

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FOR YOUNG INVENTORS

Tinkering Labs Electric Motors Catalyst STEM Kit



\$65 AT AMAZON

\$65 AT WALMART

**PROS**

- ⊕ Helps improve problem solving skills
- ⊕ DIY kit with 50+ parts
- ⊕ Wooden pieces

**CONS**

This kit allows kids to build and rebuild robots, cars, and creatures of their own imagination. It’s perfect for the budding inventor who likes to tinker with things around the house, and includes wooden pieces, electric motors and batteries, plus hardware and tools, including protective goggles and a screwdriver.

There’s also a game element—10 playing cards that challenge kids to build various creations on the spot. The kit is a customer favorite, with an average 4.5 stars from more than 560 reviewers, and it’s recommended for kids ages 8 to 12.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	8-12 years
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	50+

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BEST BUDGET

4M Tin Can Edge Detector Robot





\$26 AT AMAZON

\$19 AT WALMART

\$20 AT TRACTOR SUPPLY CO

**PROS**

- + Fantastic value
- + Great for beginners
- + Helps build confidence for more advanced kits

**CONS**

- ✗ Can not included

This robot kit allows kids to be creative on the cheap. A used soda can, one AAA battery, and a small crosshead screwdriver are all that's required to learn how to repurpose an object and transform it into a fun and functional bot with a motion sensor.

Recommended for kids ages 8 and up, the kit has easy-to-read instructions and is a great first design to build your kids’ confidence before they move on to bigger—and more expensive—robotics kits.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	8-15 years
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	N/A

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8

FOR LEARNING ELECTRONICS

Makeblock mBot Robotics Coding Kit



\$80 AT AMAZON

\$115 AT WALMART

**PROS**

- + Designed for learning electronics
- + Good entry-level robot for kids
- + 60 programming game tasks

**CONS**

The Makeblock's mBot is an excellent toy for young programmers, as the small robot can be built in about 15 minutes using an easy-to-follow guide and step-by-step instructions in 3D.

Kids can start coding in Scratch, a graphic programming language, with free included software—plus there's an app with 60 game-based tasks to challenge kids and help them advance their skills.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	8-12 years
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	Not listed

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9

COOLEST TOY

JIMU Mythical Series: Robot Dragon



Now 14% Off

\$60 AT AMAZON

\$60 AT WALMART

#### PROS

- + Dragon “breathes fire” and flaps wings
- + Value-packed kit with 606 pieces
- + Easy-to-follow instructions

#### CONS

While every toy in our roundup is worthy of being wrapped under the Christmas tree, this rad robotic dragon takes first place as the coolest toy. The kit includes 606 pieces and kids can use Blockly to make the dragon's snout glow red or blue and activate its wings to flap.

There's a free app to download to get 3D step-by-step building instructions, and it comes with a DC motor, touch-sensor, gears, and more.

KEY SPECS

Recommended Age Range	8 years and up
Assembly Required	Yes
Number of Pieces	606

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10

WIDE AGE RANGE

Sphero SPRK+ Robot Ball