

7 top tips to help your child with primary computing

Here are some fun and interesting things you can do together at home over the summer – and they will improve your child's understanding and appreciation of computing!

1

Keep it real. Find links to computing in everyday life. Taking photographs, crossing roads at traffic lights, paying for things in shops or playing games on devices all rely on computers. Bring programming into routines - act out instructions for everyday things like brushing teeth or making breakfast in a robotic voice. Try doing it the wrong way round and see what happens. They can debug their original instructions to make the process run smoothly.

2

Be inspired. Think about all the amazing things that wouldn't be possible without computing. For example, robotic missions to other planets - like Rosalind Franklin, the rover set to explore Mars, and earth observation satellites. Code Club resources cover a whole range of creative and engaging activities, such as [analysing data from the two small Astro-Pi flight computers](#) that orbit the Earth aboard the International Space Station.

3

Go exploring. Download an app or [spotter sheets](#) onto your phone and go on a nature walk. See how many different plants or invertebrates you can identify using the app. Take photographs of what you find and try and identify it. Find out about your plants or animals and create a fact file about it on a computer, adding an image and text boxes for information. Think about who will be reading your fact file and make it engaging and informative.

4

Get creative. Children of all ages can enjoy coding in their favourite games online, or find new ones that engage them. [Scratch Junior](#) is something children will be familiar with from school, but there are many other sites that also provide children with a way to be creative with code. You can pick up new skills at [Hour of Code](#). Explore [Tinkercad](#) and have a go at computer design, get coding in Minecraft or even code your own dance party!

5

Challenge yourself. Get involved in, or set yourself a computing-themed challenge or look out for competitions running locally, nationally or even internationally. Technology may be involved in solving lots of problems that children see in their everyday lives. Identify issues or problems in your local area or everyday lives, and think about how they could solve these using technology. Maybe take on one of these [coding projects](#).

6

Grow together. Primary children can learn with parents through [Barefoot Computing](#) - and parents get an easy introduction to computational thinking. For children aged 9-13, there is [Code Club](#), which is a global network of free coding clubs. Also explore our exciting set of [home learning resources for primary computing](#).

7

Build it in. Talk to your child about [being confident and keeping safe online](#). Discuss information about themselves that they would tell each of: close family, friends and people they don't know. Talk about situations where they may be asked to share information and what is appropriate to share online and what is not. You can support your child with our digital literacy resources for [key stage 1 \(age 5-7\)](#) and [key stage 2 \(age 7-11\)](#).