

Unplugged Coding



Take a break from your screen and learn about coding in a fun, active way! No need for a computer, tablet, or apps—just yourself!

Materials

- Large, open area
- Activity directions (adapted from LeftBrainCraftBrain.com)

Introduction

- We are going to learn about one of the most basic parts of computer programming, the If/Then Statement.
- If/Then is called a conditional statement in programming. Conditional statements are features of a programming language that perform different actions depending on whether a programmer specified something.
 - Example: IF the programmer clicks on the exit button, THEN the computer will close out of a program.

Activity

- IF/THEN Coding Game
 - For every round, there is one Programmer and everyone else is a Computer.
 - The Programmer stands in front of the Computer and gives them a command.
 - IF I _____, THEN you _____.
 - Example: IF I turn in a circle, THEN you turn in a circle.
 - Depending on how many people are playing, you can set up your rounds for whatever works best! You can do three rounds per Programmer and then switch!
 - You can make the game easier or harder depending on how old you are. Here are four different ways to play this:
 - Level 1: IF I do this, THEN you do this
 - The Programmer commands the Computer to do the same thing she does and to stop when she stops.
 - Level 2: IF I do this, THEN you do that
 - Add the twist of having the Computers do a different action than the Programmer.
 - IF I lift my left arm, THEN you lift your right arm.
 - IF I touch my head, THEN you touch your knees.
 - Level 3: IF I do this, THEN you do that, or else you do something else
 - If the Programmer commands, “IF I raise my right arm, THEN you raise your left arm, OR ELSE you raise your right foot.”
 - This means if the Programmer does nothing, the Computers should raise their right foot.
 - Level 4: IF/THEN speed round and eliminations
 - Computers will “break” and sit down if they don’t follow the commands correctly. The last Computer standing wins.
- How do computers use IF/THEN statements?
- Can you think of a time when something didn’t work correctly on your computer or device?