



Learning to Code

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Benefits of Coding:

Logical Thinking:

You learn how to break down a problem into individual steps and to use a language that the computer understands to logically create a working program whilst communicating your thoughts in a structured and logical way - A key skill in any profession!

Bring Ideas to Life and Problem Solve:

The nearly endless ways of coding and solving problems can inspire ideas to grow. Learning to code aids the solving of problems in a methodical way that could be replicated by a machine.

Become More Confident:

You develop more confidence in using your computer as you understand how it works and how it can be controlled through programming.

Tips and Tricks:

Half the problem with learning to code is trying to come up with a project. Look around you, there is always a problem that requires solving.

Always carry a notebook. Ideas and solutions to coding problems can appear any time of the day, having a notebook close to hand allows you to record them on paper.

Learn to play chess - Chess is a good way of training your brain to think ahead. This is a great coding skill, being able to think ahead and cater for all scenarios.

Practice, practice and practice again.

In terms of inspirational ideas it's really hard to make a short list of really great coding projects. I've put together a website that automatically searches the internet for coding projects that I hope will inspire. You can view it here:

whyraspberrypi.blogspot.co.uk

Books and Blogs:

Blogs:

Make:
makezine.com/blog

Instructables:
www.instructables.com

Free Online Magazines:

MagPi:
www.raspberrypi.org/magpi

HackSpace:
hackspace.raspberrypi.org/issues

Hello World: (One for the teachers)
helloworld.raspberrypi.org

Ideas and Inspiration:

Learning to code empowers you to do many things you wouldn't otherwise be able to do or make. Here are just a couple of First Coding's projects to get your ideas flowing.



First Coding's Furby

Did you know that you can control motors and lights with Scratch? We decided to see how far we could take this and we were able to control a broken Furby toy, bringing it back to life and getting it to read out our emails.



Our Arcade Cabinet

I always enjoy playing the games we make in our lessons but I couldn't help but think they would be better played on an arcade cabinet - so we made our own using a Raspberry Pi, Scratch and MDF. Check our blog for more details.

firstcoding.co.uk

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