

## SUPERHERO CODING GAME WITHOUT A COMPUTER

A computer coding game is a really fun way to introduce the basic concept of computer coding to young children. Even better if you make it a superhero computer coding game! Plus you don't actually have to have a computer, so it's a cool tech-free idea. This homemade coding game was pretty easy to set up and can be played with over and over again with any type of pieces. Use superheroes, LEGO, My Little Ponies, Star Wars, or whatever you have to learn a little about programming.

### **SUPERHERO CODING FOR KIDS!**

Use basic programming ideas to help Batman avoid the bad guys and get the jewels! You have to get him to move on the right path around the obstacles using basic programming commands. Plus it's an awesome STEM activity. STEM is science, technology, engineering, and math.

### **WHAT YOU NEED**

- Poster Board
- Craft Tape
- Post It Note or Business Card Sheets {we have used these too!}
- Superheroes
- Lego obstacles (or whatever you have!)

I used the size of my post it note pads (had 4 separate little pads) to determine the size of the squares to make the grid. Then I went ahead and laid out the tape using the pads lined up for reference to create a pretty straight line with the tape. Obviously if the tape is creasing and folding, you aren't straight! I wasn't going for perfection but a simple grid that was mostly straight. You can also use a marker and ruler.



### HOW TO PLAY A SUPERHERO COMPUTER CODING GAME CODING COMMAND CARDS

We used three commands. Forward. Turn Left. Turn Right. We did not label each sticky note but took the bottom one from the pile. You can cut cards and label each one with the appropriate action. Both ways are pretty reusable.



### **COMUPTER CODING GAME OBSTACLES**

If you don't put obstacles on the board for your chosen character, you will not have a lot of fun commands to program. Set up obstacles in any of the squares. An adult can do this for kids. You can scan to make sure a route is available.



### **HAVE AN END POINT OR FINISH TO THE GAME**

Remember the game can be different each time! You choose the obstacle placement and the finish. We chose a cluster of jewels to be our finish point. Multiple kids can play with multiple characters and multiple finish points. I used Wonder Woman and a separate set of jewels.

## CHOOSE A STARTING POSITION

You can also choose to have your character start facing different directions, forward, facing left, or facing right!

## WRITE THE CODE

Start the game. Write the code! You want ample space to lay the code out in front of you. You may have to overlap the cards. What is the shortest or most efficient route to get to your finish point? Lay out forward, left turn, and right turn cards as you move. *You cannot turn and move forward in one command. They are two separate commands.* Move your character as you go.

**ADVANCED VERSION:** Do not move your character as you go and plan the commands out in your head and place them out on the table. Then move your character through the series of command and see if you got it right!

There are endless possibilities with this homemade computer coding game. You can even create your own special cards such as your character can push an obstacle as his/her move! Play it over and over again with a new route each time. Although this game is fun with a couple players, it can also be a great independent play game. Great rainy day activity!



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