Tech Beginnings: Workshops for Early Childhood Teachers and Parents

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WHEN May 13, 2017 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM | 1:00PM – 4:00PM

WHERE UW Mary Gates Hall, Room 206

WHAT

Coding Constructions (9AM – 12PM)
Tech experts tell us that "coding is the new literacy" but when should young children begin learning about computer programming? In this session, we'll identify the coding concepts that are appropriate for young children and explore the classroom tools and open-ended play experiences that build those skills. In particular, we'll focus on the importance of balancing digital experiences on tech devices with hands-on tangible experiences using traditional play materials such as unit blocks, pegboards, and clay. This session also includes a brief tutorial on basic computer science terms and concepts such as algorithm, command, and code. Participants may be surprised to learn that foundational computer science concepts, such as identifying patterns and creating sequences, are quite familiar and accessible to everyone.

Robotics for Young Children (1PM – 4PM)
Robots are everywhere! They vacuum floors and assemble cars. They frost cupcakes and see through walls. They can even help doctors perform surgery. The study of robotics, even in early childhood, provides opportunities for learning about a broad range of foundational STEM concepts (science, technology, engineering, and math). This session offers ideas for introducing young children to both the building and programming of robots through playful, developmentally appropriate activities. The robotics activities presented in this session include a balance of adult-facilitated and child-centered activities that can be implemented by teachers in early childhood classrooms as well as by parents at home. Suggested materials include traditional toys like blocks and clay, household items like clocks and radios, and tech devices like tablets, Bee-Bot robots, Code-A-Pillar toys, and Hexbugs. Participants will have opportunities try out some of the devices and hands-on activities during the session.

HOW
• **Registration Opens March 13th at 8:00AM!**
• **$100/person per session *OR* $150/person for both sessions**
• **Register online at:**
robinsoncenter.uw.edu/programs/professional-development