

# [Gift Ideas for Kids Who Love Coding](#)

I have a confession. I got my boys interested in coding because I am fascinated by everything that's available to them. I play the Learn to Code apps right alongside them. I even created this [Pirate Coding Game](#) to keep them interested when they were first learning, without constantly being on a tablet.

I'm embarrassingly obsessed.

But what the heck, this is my blog so I'm going to let my nerd flag fly. I actually enjoy coding. I feel good about buying coding related toys for the kids because it's helping them develop logical and critical thinking skills that are important for their futures.

And they are fun.

I like to play with them.

So, here's my list of recommendations based on ages and what I've learned so far.





A young boy with short brown hair is sitting at a desk, looking intently at a computer monitor. The monitor displays lines of code on a dark blue background. The boy is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt. His hands are resting on the back of a tan office chair. The background shows a window with greenery outside and a desk with various items like a pen holder and a water bottle.

Gifts for  
Kids Who  
Love  
*Computers*  
and *Coding*

[www.amypossolano.com](http://www.amypossolano.com)

## **Paid Versions of Favorite Coding Apps**

I have been working on a guide to kids coding apps, it feels like forever. We've been playing a lot and experimenting this past year. There are so many, it feels impossible to get to them all and I wanted to make a really comprehensive guide. I'll be publishing it in pieces so it actually gets done. So if you want to know when I publish new stuff about coding for kids, [Sign Up Here](#)

Along the way I've noticed that, while you can play and learn a lot for free, there will come a point when you'll want to pay for the advanced levels. I suggest trying out the free versions first and then decide which is best for your kids. The guide with my opinions is coming soon, I promise.

**Here are a few apps we've been playing with and testing:**

- [Code Monkey](#)
- [LightBot Jr.](#) 
- [Tynker](#)
- [The Foos](#)
- [Kodable](#)

## **Coding Toys for Younger Kids (ages 4-8)**

Your kids aren't just going to be able to pick up a tablet and code an advanced game. They need to learn to think logically and then apply those thinking skills to different programming languages. There are some great toys on the market that address these first steps of thinking in a fun and playful way

that kids love.

I haven't tried it yet, but the [Osmo Coding Game](#) is also recommended for ages 5-12.



Also at this age, a tablet makes sense so that kids can play and explore the various coding apps available. We love our [LeapFrog Epic Tablet](#). It's Android based, so you can get apps from the [Amazon Underground App Store](#), but also play age appropriate educational games available from LeapFrog.



## Gifts for Intermediate Coders Ages 8+

As kids get older, the possibilities multiply and start to get pricier. Here are some suggestions if your child is in the 8+ age range. My kids aren't quite there yet, but these are on my

radar for the next few years. \*unless of course they come out with something even cooler by then, which I'm sure they will and I will update my suggestions.

## More Expensive and Advanced Coding

And then there are the advanced robotics toys. Here are a few ideas. As my boys get older and I learn more about things like [Kano](#) and [Arduino](#), I'll be passing along that info to you. So make sure you [Sign Up Here](#) to receive updates.

[Send Me More About Coding](#)

## Monthly Coding Projects Delivered to Your Mailbox

If you're looking for a gift that will inspire kids to code all year long, or even for just a few months, make sure you check out . It's a monthly subscription box for ages 6-14. Each box contains dozens of programming apps from simple to more advanced.

Kids start with the code from the book and type it into the (This also gives them typing practice). Then they change it to make it their own, play it, or share with friends. The apps work on any mobile device.

We received a sample box and my 6 year old LOVED the trading cards with sample codes that came with it. Visit the to order your first box today.

Are your kids interested in coding, or would you like them to be? I'd love to hear your questions. Submit them in the comments below or [email me!](#)