Teaching Computational Thinking to Prekindergarteners

What is the Project About?
This project aims to create computational thinking learning materials that are geared towards the four-year-old students of Head Start. The project is a partnership between the National Head Start Association (NHSA), codeSpark, a provider of computational thinking materials, and the RAND Corporation, a non-profit research organization.

What is Computational Thinking?
Computational thinking is a set of basic skills that can help children succeed in certain schoolwork and careers that use computers. These are skills such as:

- Big actions can be broken up into lots of smaller actions
- Actions may need to be done in a certain order (sequencing)
- Actions may repeat several times (looping), and more

To teach these concepts the materials will:

- Include fun activities that illustrate and teach these concepts
- Activities will be on tablets or computers in addition to physical toys
- Lessons require just visual and hand skills, not language skills.

How Can I Help?
We are seeking Head Start teachers to join a 1-hour focus group. During this discussion, we will ask you questions about:

- Your views on technology and their role in school and at home
- How to make the content that is engaging for your students
- And/or feedback on draft versions of the learning materials.

Participation is completely voluntary, and you can choose to answer only the questions you feel comfortable with. You can leave the focus group at any time. You can participate by joining a videoconference call with your fellow teachers or participate by voice only. In appreciation of your help, we will give you a $25 gift card.

Study Sign up

Interested in being part of the study?
Sign up at: **bit.ly/nhsastudy**