



Study of Coding Readiness Curriculum Information for Head Start Centers We Invite You to Participate!

What is the purpose of the study?

The two main goals of this study are to understand whether a new coding readiness curriculum made especially for Head Start students: (1) improves the coding readiness skills of children; and (2) improves teacher comfort with coding readiness skills and how to teach them. **No knowledge of coding is needed!**

This study will take place in Head Start centers throughout the country in January through May 2024.

Who is conducting the study?

The RAND Corporation is conducting the study in partnership with the National Head Start Association and codeSpark. RAND is a non-profit, non-partisan research institution that conducts research in many areas, including early childhood education. We use research to inform how to better solve society's problems. codeSpark is a respected educational technology company that specializes in making educational games and curriculum for young children.

Who is funding the study?

This project is funded through a grant by the National Science Foundation. The National Science Foundation is a government agency that supports research related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Are there risks to participation?

There are no direct risks to participation. Your relationship RAND, the National Head Start Association, and codeSpark will not change if you decline to participate in the study.

What are your rights as a participant?

Your decision to take part in the study is completely voluntary. Even if you agree to participate initially, you may withdraw your consent at any time using the contact at the end of this flier with no penalty or consequences.

How will your data be protected?

RAND takes the security of educator and child data very seriously. We have deep experience in keeping data safe. RAND will keep your information and results completely confidential. RAND will not share any information you provide to anyone outside the research team. All information will be reported in totals, averages, and statistics; individual answers and names will not be included in any study report

What will you be asked to do?

If you choose to join the study, teachers will be randomly assigned to either teach 18 coding readiness lessons between January and May 2024 (about 3 per week for 6-8 weeks) or teach as they normally would.

Teachers randomly assigned to teach the coding readiness lessons will be asked to:

1. Complete a 3-hour, virtual professional development to help them learn about coding readiness concepts and how to teach them.
2. Teach 18 lessons over 6-8 weeks
3. Administer a multiple choice, coding readiness and interest in computers assessment (tablet-based) two times.
4. Take a survey to understand their perceptions of and comfort teaching coding readiness.

Teachers randomly assigned to teach as they normally do will be asked to:

1. Complete a 15-minute, virtual professional development on the coding readiness assessment.
2. Administer the multiple choice, coding readiness assessment (tablet-based) two times.
3. Take a survey to understand their perceptions of and comfort teaching coding readiness.

We would also like some background information on your children and, if possible, performance on formative assessments (such as TS GOLD or COR Advantage)

What are some benefits of participation?

There are a few ways you can benefit from the study:

1. We will provide incentives for the educators' and center's time and expertise.
 - a. Teachers who teach the lessons will receive up to \$400
 - b. Teachers who do not teach the will receive up to \$200
2. Each center in the study will also receive \$100
3. At the end of the year, we will provide you with an easy-to-understand summary of your children's performance on the assessment.
4. The study will provide the larger early childhood education community information on how to best teach coding readiness skills in prekindergarten classrooms.



Who can you contact with questions?

We are happy to talk to you to answer any questions you may have and to explain in more detail the study. Feel free to contact:

Dr. Christopher Doss
Policy Researcher
Study Lead
cdoss@rand.org
(571) 591-3396

For questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact RAND's Human Subjects Protection Committee:

1-866-697-5620 (toll-free)
hspcinfo@rand.org
Please reference study #2021-N0258

Thank You for Your Consideration!

