

Computational Thinking Through Play

Games and Play-Based Learning Manual



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Letter to RTP Leaders

Dear RTP Leaders,

Welcome to *Computational Thinking Through Play*! We are delighted to share this manual with you.

One of your most important roles as a Leader is to inspire children with the gift of curiosity and connection. The development of computational thinking is an important and life-enhancing process that helps young people to make sense of, and participate actively, in the 21st century world.

What makes this manual exciting as a resource is in how it can be used to help children and Leaders achieve personal, academic and programmatic goals through a child-centered, play-based approach to learning. This manual is designed to provide you with a wide range of games and activities for the teaching and learning of computational thinking skills. To build this manual we have consulted leaders and peers in the field and RTP program staff and Leaders, as well as a range of research literature and professional publications.

In *Chapter 1* you will find an introduction to computational thinking as well as some general ideas to support you in teaching computational thinking. In *Chapter 2* you will be introduced to the Resource Framework that Right To Play has developed and some instruction on how to use the games and how to adapt them to the needs of the children you work with. *Chapter 3* describes in more detail the computational thinking skills targeted in these games. Finally in *Chapter 4* you will find the games and play-based activities that we have developed for you using Right To Play's *Reflect-Connect-Apply* methodology. Through these games and activities you can connect to children's prior knowledge and experiences and encourage them to apply their new thinking throughout their learning journey.

We hope you will find this manual helpful as you work to support children's computational thinking skills and competencies. We also hope the children you work with enjoy developing computational thinking through play!

Look After Yourself, Look After One Another