



• Coding from the Littles to the Middles • Teaching and Learning with Robots in Elementary School

Presenters: Arlyn Bruccoli, M.S.Ed., and Jennifer Fitch, M.Ed.

Target Audience: Kindergarten - grade 6 teachers, librarians, and technology integration specialists. No coding experience necessary.

Coding supports learners in developing foundational literacy and math skills, including sequencing and spatial awareness. The physical nature of robotics increases understanding and engagement for concrete and abstract learning. As a result, coding with students is increasingly a part of elementary school instruction.

Participants will explore several different robots designed for use with students, with a focus on the cost effective and versatile Edison robot. Multiple free coding programs can be used with Edison. Applications range from simple drag and drop visual programming platforms to more sophisticated text-based platforms. This versatility allows students different ways to solve the same challenges, while also supporting teachers with differentiation. Edison is also Lego brick compatible, providing opportunities for integrating design engineering tasks.

The presenters will share instructional resources, student materials, rubrics, best practices for teacher collaboration, and tips for classroom management. Additional information will be provided about a variety of free and low-cost coding resources readily available to teachers.

This workshop will specifically address:

- Literacy, math and science integration through robotics;
- Direct instruction around collaboration and other transferable skills;
- How to differentiate instruction using Edison;
- How robotics supports student collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving;
- The benefits and challenges of using robotics in an elementary setting.

Arlyn Bruccoli is the Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist at East Montpelier Elementary School. Her love of dinosaurs, anthropology, and children led her to pursue a Master of Science in Education at Bank Street College with a concentration in museum education.

Jennifer Fitch is a third-grade teacher at East Montpelier Elementary School. In her over 20 years of teaching, she has taught every grade level except kindergarten. Her passion for early literacy and teaching children to read led her to complete her Master's in Education with a concentration in Early Literacy from the University of Vermont.

Dates: March 19, 2020
Place: Reynolds House, Barre VT
Cost: \$240 (cost includes Edison Robot)
Time: 8:30-3:30

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