



# Career Development Month Digital Toolkit

## Digital Skills for a Digital Future

*Preparing Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow*



Learning.com

October, 2025

Learning.com

# Career Development Month Digital Toolkit

## Why This Toolkit?

**Career Development Month is the perfect opportunity to highlight how schools are preparing students for the future workforce.** With Learning.com, students start building essential digital skills in elementary and middle school—from coding and problem-solving to AI literacy and responsible technology use. These pathways help students become adaptable, ethical, and confident contributors to tomorrow's world. **Share this Career Development Month Toolkit with your educators to facilitate meaningful conversations with students about careers, share lessons & events, and to highlight your district's commitment to preparing students for the careers of tomorrow.**

## Curriculum Overview: Foundational AI Lessons

Learning.com's foundational AI lessons are designed to give students a practical, age-appropriate introduction to artificial intelligence while reinforcing critical thinking, digital citizenship, and problem-solving skills. These lessons help students move beyond simply using technology toward understanding how AI works, how it impacts daily life, and how to engage with it responsibly.

Students begin by asking questions about AI and building curiosity while practicing responsible research and evaluation. Lessons guide them in spotting how AI is used in everyday contexts, from digital assistants to recommendation systems, these lessons encourage students to compare their own reasoning with the decisions made by machines. Through structured activities, they analyze the limitations, biases, and accuracy of AI-generated content, strengthening their judgment about when and how AI should be trusted.

Across the lessons, students explore the social and ethical impacts of AI. They investigate how different industries, communities, and individuals are shaped by emerging technologies, learning to weigh both opportunities and challenges. Lessons also highlight the importance of human oversight, safety, and fairness in AI applications, ensuring students recognize that technology must be guided by values and responsibility.

**By the end of the foundational sequence, students are expected to:**

- Ask thoughtful, testable questions about AI.
- Interact with AI tools critically and responsibly.
- Demonstrate awareness of AI's role in society and the workplace.
- Communicate informed opinions on when AI is useful, when it should be questioned, and how it can be improved.

In short, these lessons prepare students not just to use AI, but to understand, evaluate, and shape it. The curriculum builds confident, responsible technology citizens who are ready to navigate a world where AI will play an increasing role in their education, careers, and communities.



# Table of Contents

Leadership Brief: Bridging Classrooms to Careers 4

Career Development Month Webinars 6

Classroom-Ready Resources for Teachers 7

Future Careers of Tomorrow 8

AI and Coding Curriculum Guide 9

Career Conversation Starters 10

Coloring Page 11

Leadership Brief:

# Bridging Classrooms to Careers

The workforce is being reshaped by AI and digital technologies, creating rising demand for coding, digital literacy, and problem-solving skills. Early exposure in K–8 not only builds these foundations but also shapes student confidence, interests, and future career paths. District and school leaders play a vital role in ensuring students are prepared to thrive as creators in a tech-driven world.

## The Rising Importance of AI, Coding & Digital Literacy

- Across industries, employers are increasingly demanding workers who can engage with AI and code: AI-related job postings are growing rapidly, and labor markets now reward those who bring digital fluency and data/algorithmic thinking.
- AI is reshaping how work is done: rather than replacing all human tasks, AI often complements human skills, increasing demand for digital literacy, creative problem solving, and strategic thinking.
- Organizations themselves recognize the gap: according to a 2024 BCG survey on AI usage, 89% of companies said their workforce needed improved AI skills, even though only a small share had started meaningful upskilling.

## How Early Exposure Shapes Student Paths

- Introducing coding, computational thinking, and robotics early can strengthen students' confidence with logic, sequencing, and iterative design.
- Early access helps break stereotypes about who can be a "coder" or technologist.
- According to researchers at the University of Maryland, once students reach the high school level, access to computer science courses has been linked to higher rates of choosing tech majors and modest gains in earnings, especially for underrepresented students.

## Why K–8 Education Plays a Crucial Role in Workforce Readiness

- In middle and upper elementary grades, students begin forming identities and interests; exposure to digital tools and coding in these years can influence whether they see themselves as creators, not just consumers.
- Foundational skills (digital literacy, safe and ethical technology use, basic coding) become building blocks that support more advanced learning in high school and beyond.
- States are embedding computing standards early: for example, Tennessee's K–12 Computer Science Standards position students to build progressively toward postsecondary and workforce-ready skills.
- By equipping all students (even those who will not become software engineers) with fluency in digital tools, schools help future-proof students for a labor landscape where many jobs will require interacting with, guiding, or augmenting AI systems.

## National Impact Data

**To measure impact, Learning.com uses skills checks to assess what students know and what they've learned. These checks are automatically graded and scores are reported in the Gradebook tab. In just one academic year, students gained critical digital skills growth with Learning.com:**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **54%** Artificial Intelligence | **51%** Computational Thinking | **55%** Computer Fundamentals | **47%** Online Safety & Digital Citizenship | **63%** Presentations |
| **61%** Word Processing | **57%** Spreadsheets & Databases | **65%** Visual Mapping | **54%** Multimedia | **53%** Internet Usage & Online Communication |

*** 2024-2025 School year**



# Career Development Month Webinars

Join us this Career Development Month for a series of engaging webinars designed to help educators prepare students for the future workforce. From AI to adaptive keyboarding, these sessions will provide practical strategies and resources you can bring straight into your classroom. Don't miss the chance to gain fresh insights and tools to inspire your students! Register below:

**Adaptive Keyboarding: Deeper Dive: Grades 3-12:** Register Now
Nov 4, 2025 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM CST

**AI and Learning.com Grades 4-12:** Register Now
Nov 6, 2025 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM CST

**AI and Learning.com Grades 4-12:** Register Now
Nov 12, 2025 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM CST



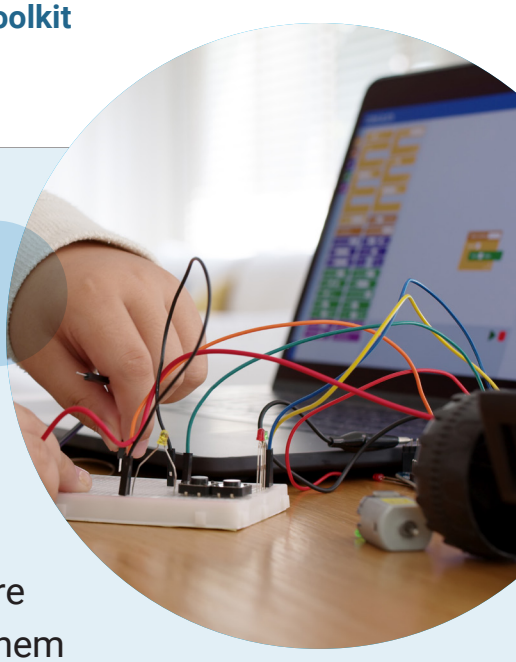


# Classroom-Ready Resources for Teachers



Learning.com

October, 2025



# Future Careers of Tomorrow

## Help Students See What's Possible

### Why This Matters

The world of work is changing faster than ever. Many of the jobs today's students will hold don't even exist yet. By introducing students to emerging career paths, we can inspire curiosity, highlight the importance of digital skills, and help them imagine exciting futures.

## Careers Shaped by AI, Coding, and Digital Innovation



**AI & Machine Learning Engineer**

Builds systems that help computers learn and make decisions.



**Cybersecurity Analyst**

Protects data, networks, and people online.



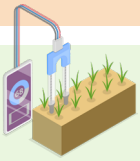
**Augmented & Virtual Reality Designer**

Creates immersive digital worlds and experiences.



**Artists & Designers**

AI tools for concept generation, image editing, and rapid prototyping.



**Farmers & Agronomists**

Use AI-powered drones, soil sensors, and predictive analytics for crop yields, irrigation, and pest control.



**Robotics Technician**

Builds and maintains robots in industries like healthcare, manufacturing, and space.

## Classroom Connection

**Teachers can spark student interest by asking:**

- What careers do you think will exist in the future that don't exist today?
- How do digital skills like coding or problem-solving connect to jobs you've heard of?
- What kind of impact would you want to make in the world through your work?



# AI and Coding Curriculum Guide

## Digital Skills for a Digital Future

Please enjoy some lesson recommendations for AI and Coding in the following grade bands. The lessons can be taught in different grades at different times, however, should follow the suggested progression. **Note: Coding lessons noted as EasyCode need that program in order to run.*

| KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Topic** | **Curriculum Title** | **Instruction Type** | **Time in Minutes** |
| Computational Thinking | Computational Thinking: Patterns | Video | 15 |
| Computational Thinking | Computational Thinking: Directions | Video | 15 |
| **3RD – 5TH GRADE** | | | |
| Computational Thinking | Computational Thinking: Algorithms | Video | 15 |
| Computational Thinking | Computational Thinking: Modeling | Video | 15 |
| Artificial Intelligence | What is AI? Opal Generates Answers | Video | 8 |
| Artificial Intelligence | How Does AI Work? The Bean City Science Fair | Video | 8 |
| Artificial Intelligence | Prompt Engineering: The Mayor's Speech | Video | 7 |
| Artificial Intelligence | The Whys and Whens of AI: Innovation and Impact | Video | 5 |
| Artificial Intelligence | The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Gizmo's Glitch | Video | 5 |
| **6TH – 8TH GRADE** | | | |
| Artificial Intelligence | What is Artificial Intelligence? | Video | 15 |
| Artificial Intelligence | AI Chatbots & Real Connections | Video | 15 |
| Artificial Intelligence | AI in Research - Video | Video | 15 |
| Artificial Intelligence | The Future of Creativity: Art & AI | Video | 15 |
| Artificial Intelligence | What Does AI Have to do With News? | Video | 15 |
| Artificial Intelligence | Using Generative AI Responsibly | Video | 15 |
| Coding *EasyCode | Building Your First Program (Tutorial) | Practice | 45 |
| Coding *EasyCode | Lesson 2a: My Friends | Video | 45 |
| Coding *EasyCode | Lesson 3a: Pet Shop | Video | 45 |
| Coding *EasyCode | Codesters in Space (Tutorial) | Practice | 45 |
| Coding *EasyCode | Lesson 2a: Math & Computation | Video | 45 |
| Coding *EasyCode | Lesson 3a: Spirograph | Video | 45 |



# Career Conversation Starters

Encourage your students to start thinking about their futures this Career Development Month with our conversation starters. These simple, age-appropriate prompts help spark curiosity, connect classroom learning to real-world jobs, and inspire students to imagine the possibilities ahead.

## Kindergarten – Grade 1

- What do you want to be when you grow up, and how would you help people in that job?
- What's something you love doing in class, and how could it turn into a job one day?
- Can you think of a person with an interesting job? What do they do that makes it special or important?
- If you could invent a brand-new job, what problem would it solve in the world?



## Grades 2–3

- What jobs do you notice in your community, and why do you think they matter?
- How do you think people use reading, writing, or math in their jobs every day? Can you give an example?
- What's a job that helps other people? How do you think it makes a difference?
- Imagine a job in the future, what tools or skills would people need to do it well?



## Grades 4–5

- Why do you think learning digital skills (like keyboarding or coding) might make some jobs easier or more exciting?
- How is technology changing the way people do their jobs today compared to the past?
- What kind of job do you think uses creativity the most, and why is creativity important there?
- What skills are you practicing now that could be useful in a career later, and how might you keep improving them?

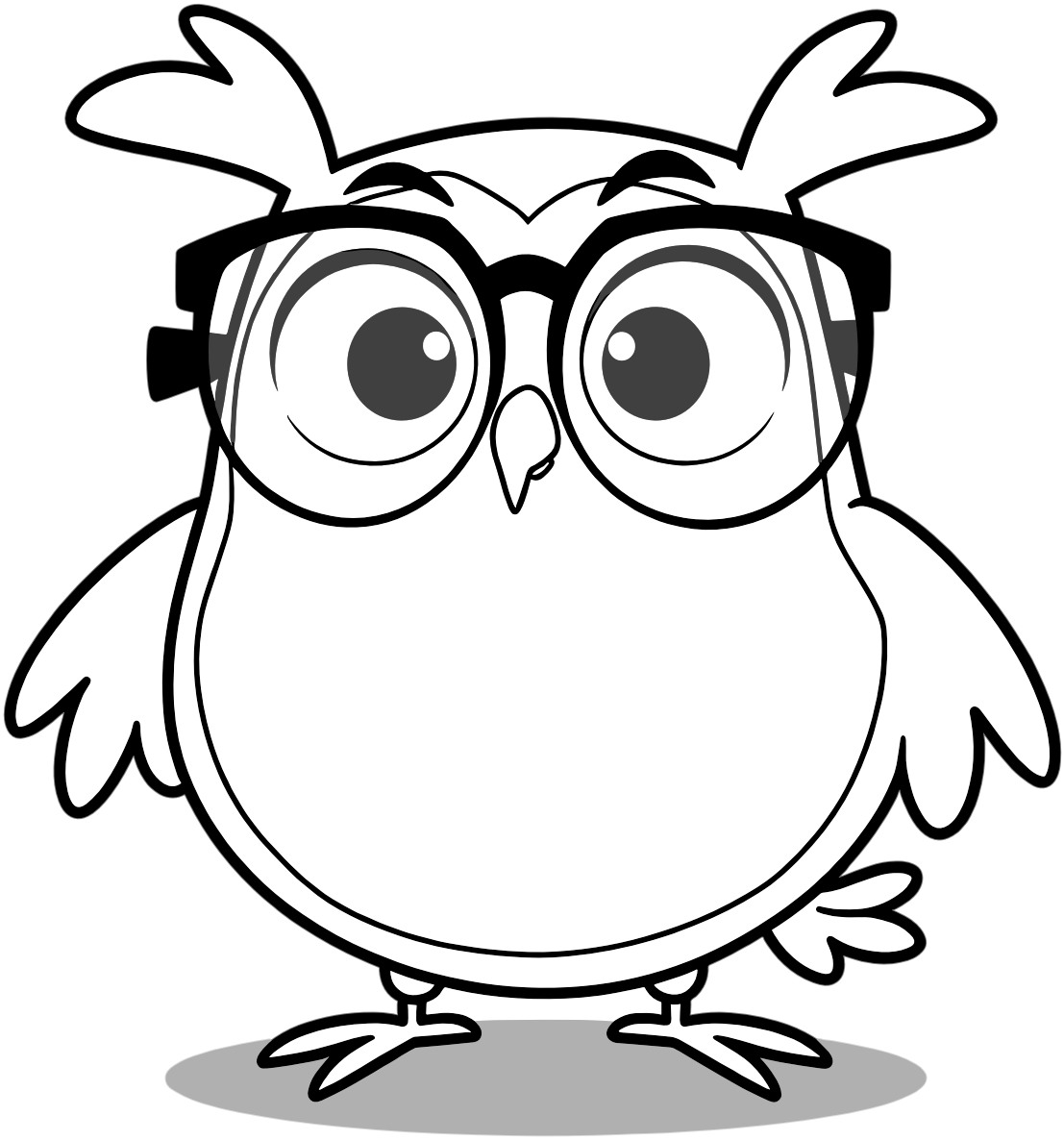


## Grades 6–8

- What careers exist today that didn't 20 years ago? What do you think caused those new jobs to be created?
- How might artificial intelligence (AI) or coding change the way people work in the future? Can you think of a benefit and a challenge?
- What's the difference between a job and a career, and why might that difference matter to you?
- What skills do you think employers will value most in the future, and how can you start building them now in school, at home, or in your community?



# When I grow up



## I want to be _____