Mini Drones and Droids

Mentor Public Library

Young Adult

Mini Drones and Droids

Aug 22, 2016

$101-250

$$
Byline

Mary Pelton, Librarian II, Mentor (Ohio) Public Library

Mini Drones and Droids was a teen and children's program designed to familiarize kids with new technologies by teaching them how to fly drones, work mini-bots and to learn the programming mindset. As an added bonus, there is an inherent coolness factor for playing with technologies like these.

Advanced Planning

I wanted to put together a cool tech program for teen summer reading that would attract tech-savvy boys and girls. I also wanted to familiarize kids with "new and cool" technologies by teaching them how to fly drones and program Ozobots. (Ozobots are mini-robots that perform commands based on color patterns drawn

onto paper.) The children’s department helped plan the program and plans to offer another for elementary school students later this summer.

The program was scheduled for June, which meant that I started planning for it in January. This included purchasing the mini-drones and Ozobots from Amazon.

One unexpected challenge to the program was that the drone blades were extremely delicate. I had to replace them frequently to get the drones to work properly.

Marketing

For marketing the program, I used videos, newsletters, fliers, in-house promotion and social media. **(View a sample flyer under Attachments at right.)**

Budgeting

I spent a little over $160 dollars on this program. Below is a list of supplies I used:

- 3 mini-drones (around $20 each)
- 2 Ozobot starter kits ($50 each)
- Replacement drone blades (under $5 per pack)
- Boxes and hula hoops for a mini drone obstacle course
- Flat-tipped markers for creating Ozobot tracks
    - You must have multiple black wide-tipped markers for this program. You'll also need a few blue, green and red markers.
- Art or butcher paper for drawing the Ozobot tracks

Day-of-event Activity

This is a pretty easy program to set up on the day of the event. It takes only one staff member to put out the mini-drones, Ozobots and build the obstacle course for the drones.

Program Execution

For the drone portion of the program, start off by teaching the kids some basic flying skills before allowing them to attempt the obstacle course. Since it's easy to zip the drones from place to place, I would recommend having an in-depth training session to practice some of the harder aspects of flying a mini-drone, like hovering at one level. To teach attendees how to hover, you could suspend a hula hoop horizontally to see who can make the drone stay in the hoop.

The Ozobot section of the program should also include a training session. For this portion, I had small pieces of paper that the kids could practice on individually and one large sheet where they could work together on a course. In addition to having the kids create their own tracks, I also printed out some of the mazes, puzzles and tracks from the Ozobot website. The bots were a hit because the kids could program them to do specific tricks or to race each other.

Advice

I would suggest making a portion of the program competitive. One way to do this would be to have a scoreboard and a set of tasks to complete. For instance, attendees could score a certain amount of points if they made the drone fly through a hula hoop or had an Ozobot jump to another track. You could also split the group into teams to see which could complete the most activities.

I would also recommend using the Ozobot website. It has a lot of great resources (like teacher lesson plans) and is extremely helpful for figuring out how the mini robots work.

Did you try this program at your library? Share your experience using this form.

Supporting Materials

Document
drone_poster.pdf

Download this Program as a PDF

- Programming Librarian Facebook Group

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May 28, 2015
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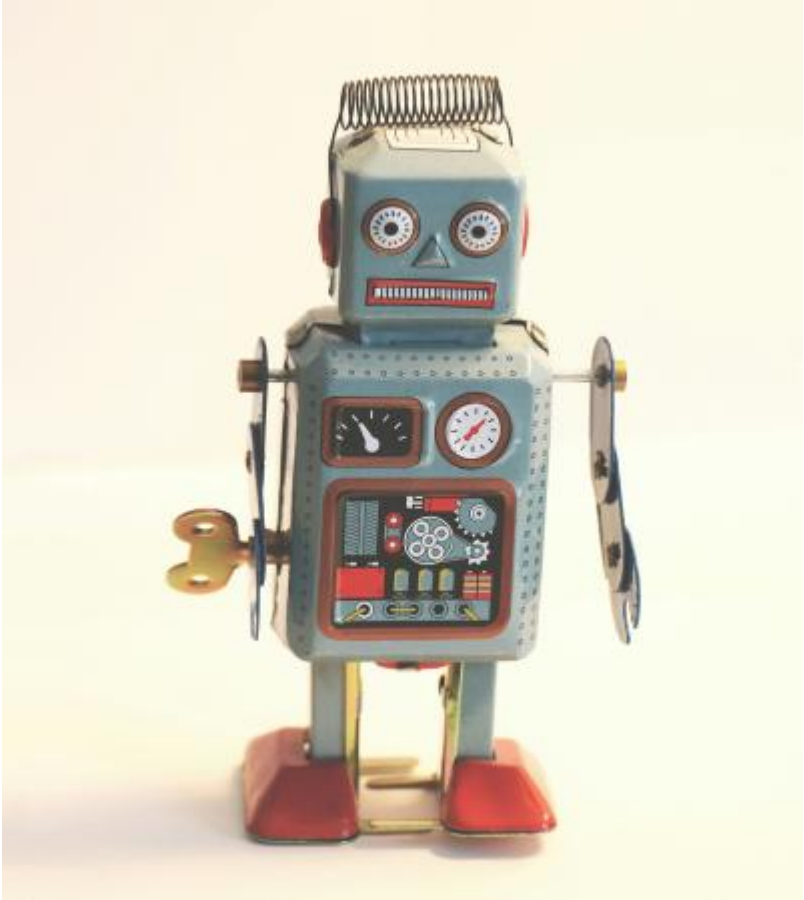
Image



Robot Invasions at Your School Library

Audiences:

Audience
Children (9 and under)
Aug 18, 2016
Children (9 and under)+ | $

Image

Get Kids Problem-Solving with Brushbots

Audiences:

Audience
Children (9 and under)
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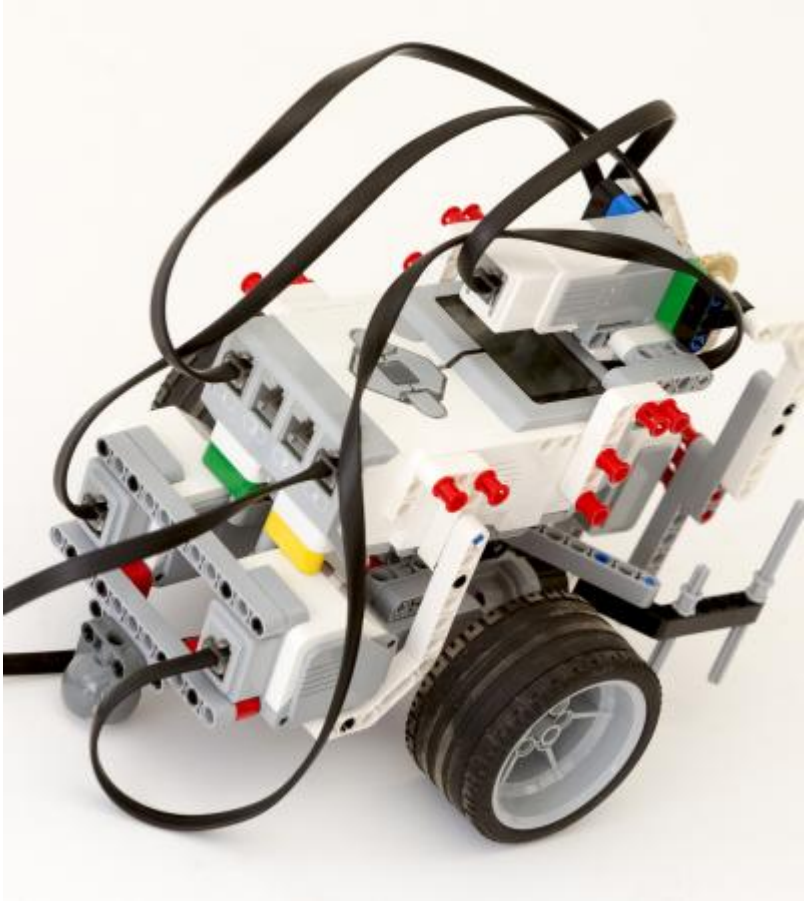

LEGO Robotics

Audiences:

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Feb 2, 2016
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Green City Robotics

Audiences:

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