

# STEM

*starts now*

## My Little Robot

**Recommended Age:** 31–36 Months

**STEM concepts:** Technology (Coding)

**Materials:** Blindfold, two or more objects to be used as obstacles

**What to do:** Start off this activity by telling your child that she is a robot that needs to go from one side of the room to another. But, there's a twist. She won't be able to see and will have to listen to your directions to get through the maze. You can use a scarf, bandana, or anything else that will work as a blind fold. Once she has it on, place a few things around the room as obstacles. When you do this, make sure to use objects that won't cause harm if she runs into them. Some suggestions are stuffed animals, soft books, soft blocks, pillows, etc. Move her to one side of the room to the "start" line.

Once you've placed a few obstacles, say that it is time to start the maze. Rest your hand on his shoulder as you guide him through the maze. As you guide him, say things like "take one step forward", "move sideways slowly" and "take a baby step backwards". Once you've reached the other side of the room, take off his blindfold and congratulate him for making it to the other side! Point out the different places where you had placed obstacles.

**Language and Communication:** This simple activity relies heavily on good communication! A key part of coding at the elementary level is making a set of steps. As you guide your child around your obstacles, you are creating a set of steps. This concept is basic coding. So, describe each step to your child as best as you can.

**Expand the Activity:** This activity can be done several times by placing obstacles in different places. Switch roles and have your child place obstacles on the floor and guide you through the maze. This will help give her a chance to make up the set of steps. You can also have her draw out where the obstacles are and how to go around them on construction paper.

