

Getting Started

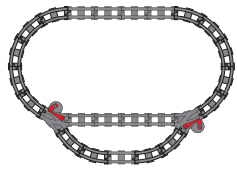
Coding Express | 45025 | Ages 3-6 | For 2-6 children

This Getting Started activity card will help you introduce the Coding Express set to your preschoolers. The activities are designed to familiarize children with the unique elements of the set, which include a train engine and action bricks. After completing some or all of these activities, you can download the Teacher Guide for more in-depth activities related to early coding skills.

Learning Objectives

Early Technology & Science:

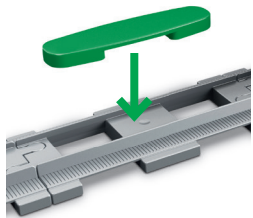
- Exploring and using simple technology
- Understanding cause and effect
- Making predictions and observations
- Developing computational thinking
- Developing spatial thinking



1. Demonstrate how to lay the track pieces. Let the children discover the different shapes the tracks can make. Encourage them to experiment with the track switches and red rail stoppers. Have them build a track with three or four different end points.



2. Choo-choo! Introduce the train engine. Demonstrate how to start and stop the engine, then have each child take a turn starting and stopping it. Show them how to move the engine from one end of the track to the other so that everyone can have a turn.



3. Show the children how to position the action bricks along the train track. Ask them to lay one of the action bricks on the track and then start the engine. Have them describe what they observe when the engine goes over the action bricks. Repeat this for all of the action bricks and then let the children experiment with the bricks in free play.

4. Show the children the building cards one at a time and ask them to describe what they see. Ask whether they have been to any of the places shown on the cards and to recount their experiences. Have the children work together to build at least three of the places shown on the building cards.



5. Now put all of the pieces together! Ask the children to place their models along the track. Encourage them to use the engine and the action bricks to transport figures to and from the different destinations along the track.



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