10 Things I learned

from creating an after school Scratch club

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Background

- Grade 1 to 6 (age 7 to 12)

- One hour each week October to May

- 2/3 Scratch, 1/3 LEGO WeDo

- drama club, dance, cheerleading, sports, chess, photography, cooking

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#1 Computing Literacy

- Mouse and keyboard skills

- Not age dependent

- low priority for technology

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Kick Starting

- "all about me" project

- use consistent vocabulary
  script, block, sprite, cut, paste

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#2 Gender Bias

- Parent bias

- Marketing problem

- Avoid: "programming, computer, robot, LEGO"

Neutral Words

- ...create their own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art

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#3 Skills

- Classroom Management is more important than Scratch knowledge

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#4 Mixed Age is Hard

- 1st graders attention span

- 3rd graders collaborate, listen

- Solution: creative pairing of students

#5 Structure

- 16 students, 2 teachers

- sit (sometimes work) in pairs

- horseshoe (circle) seating

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Curriculum

- Projects run multiple weeks

- Example, hand out, challenge, show and tell

- Design presentation

- Big year end project

Sharing

- Saving vs sharing

- Scratch site vs local file storage

- Scratch 2.0

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#6 Returning Students

- "Perfectionist": repeat last year project, but better

- or work on self directed projects

- Volunteer helpers!

What students Need

- Encouragement and Appreciation - feedback

- Minimal scaffolding

- Peer instruction

#7 Documentation

- Take pictures and videos

- Blog (embedding)

- Email update

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#8 Creativity

- Examples:

- How my parents met

- 200 questions

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Creativity

- Examples:

- Single motor car

- Perpetual motion machine

- Joystick design

#9 Surprises

- Parents interest: "Did my son showed you the projects WE worked on at HOME"

- Teachers interest: "I didn't know we do Scratch here!"

#10 Worth It?