Kit’s Clever Coding Adventure

Success criteria (tick when done)

[ ] I used a capital letter and full stop for every sentence.
[ ] I used at least two fronted adverbials (e.g., 'After that,').
[ ] My instructions are in the correct order.
[ ] I explained how to fix a problem (debug).
[ ] I used at least two words from the word bank.

What to expect at this age

Children should be able to sequence events logically and use simple conjunctions. They are beginning to experiment with fronted adverbials to make their writing more interesting.

Good, better, best: model responses

Good: My robot needs to reach the desk. First, move forward four steps. Next, turn right. After that, move forward two steps. If the robot hits the wall, I will change the number of steps. I will know it worked if it reaches the desk.

Uses the correct sequence and answers the prompt clearly with simple sentences.

Better: My robot needs to travel from the door to the bin. First, move forward five steps. Turning right, the robot moves two steps. After that, it stops at the bin. If it hits the wall, I will debug the code by changing the turn. I know it worked because it is at the bin.

Includes a fronted adverbial and better vocabulary like 'travel' and 'bin'.

Best: My robot needs to go around the chair to the rug. Moving forward, the robot takes three steps. Then, it turns left carefully. After that, it moves forward four steps to reach the rug. If it hits the chair, I will debug the code by adding a turn. I will know it is successful because the robot finishes on the rug.

Uses multiple fronted adverbials, precise directional language, and shows a clear understanding of the 'debug' process.

What a secure answer looks like

Focus on the logical sequence of the algorithm. Ensure children understand that 'debugging' is a normal part of coding, not a mistake.

If your child is stuck

Ask your child to stand up and act as the robot while you give them instructions. It is much easier to write the steps once they have physically walked the path.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often forget to include a 'turn' command, assuming the robot knows where to go. Remind them that robots are literal and need a specific command for every movement.