

ScratchJr Family Day Planning Checklist

Use this checklist as a guide to help plan before, during, and after your ScratchJr Family Day.

About ScratchJr Family Day

What is a ScratchJr Family Day?

ScratchJr Family Day is a hands-on, interactive event where young learners and their families explore creative coding, STEM, and storytelling through both unplugged and digital activities. This event creates a welcoming space for children and their caregivers—parents, grandparents, siblings, and extended family members—to explore, experiment, and create together through ScratchJr and other hands-on, interactive activities.

Who is it for?

ScratchJr Family Day is designed for children ages 5-7 and their families. The event is inclusive of siblings and family members of all ages, allowing for multi-generational participation. No prior coding experience is needed—everyone can join in the fun and learn together!

What is the goal?

The goal of ScratchJr Family Day is to foster creative confidence and collaboration between children and caregivers. Through playful, project-based activities, families build digital literacy, strengthen problem-solving skills, and experience shared learning.

Early creative coding exposure develops key skills like sequencing and logical reasoning, supporting future learning. ScratchJr offers a fun, hands-on introduction to coding, empowering families to continue the learning journey beyond the event.



Pre-Planning

- **Duration:** Choose from 1-hour, 1.5-hour, or 2-hour formats
- **Location:** Schools, libraries, museums, community centers, or other family-friendly spaces

Event Name	
Date & Time	
Event Duration	
Location	
Target Audience	Families with children ages 5-7
Planning Team	
Promotion Methods	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyers <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Sign-Up Process - RSVP Required? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Google Form <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> On-site Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Event Schedule

Time	Activity
_____ minutes	Check-in & Setup
_____ minutes	Introduction to ScratchJr (separate sessions for adults & children?)
_____ minutes	Family Coding Time (use activity prompts for inspiration)
_____ minutes	Project Sharing Session
_____ minutes	Cleanup and Wrap-up

Event Planning

Activities

Ideas for Unplugged Activities:

- Act It Out:** Use ScratchJr character cutouts to create a story before programming it.
- Coding Simon Says:** Act out different ScratchJr blocks (e.g., move forward, jump, turn).
- Sequence Puzzle:** Arrange printed [ScratchJr blocks](#) in the correct order to complete an action (function) that a character (sprite) can take, such as moving, speaking, or changing direction.
- Other:**

Ideas for Plugged Activities:

- ScratchJr Animal:** Create and animate an animal in its environment.
- ScratchJr Dance:** Program a character to dance!
- ScratchJr Play:** Develop a short animated story.
- Other:**

Ideas for Localizing & Customizing Activities:

- Adapt storytelling prompts to reflect **local culture, traditions**, or events.
- Encourage families to create projects based on **familiar community spaces** or **landmarks**.
- Integrate local languages by encouraging children to **record voiceovers in their native language** or **play traditional music**.
- Use **themes that resonate with participants**, such as environmental conservation, community helpers, or family traditions.

Materials

- Technology Needs:** One device per family with ScratchJr installed (families can bring their own, or devices can be provided)
- Sign-in sheets & name tags**
- Printed handouts** (Tip Sheets, Activity Prompts, Suggested Questions)
- Paper & markers** (for offline activities)
- Projector** (optional, for group sharing)
- Other:**

Facilitator Notes & Strategies

- Encourage **families to work together**.
- Foster a **fun and welcoming** environment.
- Use open-ended questions: “**What did you create?**” “**What would you add?**”
- Photograph your event.
- Share event highlights on **social media!** (#[ScratchJrFamilyDay](#)) and tag [@scratchjr](#), [@devtechresearch](#), and [@scratchteam](#).

Additional Resources

Check out some of these other ideas for engaging families with ScratchJr:

- [ScratchJr Family Day Protocol Packet](#) (by DevTech Research Group) offers resources and suggestions for hosting your ScratchJr Family Day event, including recruitment strategies, materials, sample agendas, activity prompts, facilitator tips, and handouts to support engagement and learning for families.
- [Family Creative Learning \(FCL\) Workshop Facilitator Guides](#) (by University of Colorado at Boulder) provide a framework for engaging families in a multi-workshop experience that empowers children and their families to collaborate on hands-on creative projects using technology like ScratchJr, Scratch, and Makey Makey, fostering curiosity, problem-solving, creativity, and community building.
- [ScratchJr Family Activity Guide](#) (by EiE Museum of Science, Boston) introduces tips for parents to support their child's coding journey with ScratchJr, fostering storytelling skills and language development.

Tip: To use as a digital tool or to translate it, [click here to make a copy](#) of this Google doc and customize as needed.