

## **Darien Library Introduces New Projects and Tech in Its TEA Room for Kids**

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Does your kid use the TEA Room at Darien Library? If your boy or girl in Grades 3 to 6 does use it, here's what's new; if they don't use it, consider this a list of reasons why they might want to.

In an email Tuesday the library announced "new, fun projects and tech to explore in the TEA Room," the library's mini-makerspace/learning lab/artist studio for kids in Grades 3 to 6.

### **What the TEA Room Is**

The library offers classes in the TEA Room on subjects from circuitry to printmaking (learn more about [scheduled classes](#) here — although there aren't any for this week).

You're also welcome to reserve the room to explore all of our supplies and technologies. The room is meant to be a fun environment for exploration.

The room "has long housed our 3D printer and buttonmaker, along with an ever-evolving cohort of the latest technology and projects for kids.

### **What's in the TEA Room?**

Snap Circuits, LittleBits Guitar, Sammy the Coding Robot, Bloxels Video Game Design, Cubelets Modular Robotics, DIY Craft Projects, Duct Tape, Buttonmaker, Mini Dormer Architecture Set, Structure Sticks, LEGO Architecture Kits, Lulzbot 3D Printer, iMac Computer, Osmo Coding Kit, Turing Tumble Marble Powered Computer, KAPLA Blocks, Light box, Paper Craft Supplies, Ellison Die Cut Machine.

### **Reserving Time in the TEA Room**

*From the Darien Library website (under the "Using the Tea Room" tab):*

"The TEA Room can be reserved in advance by Darien Residents, those who work full-time in town, and friends of the library at the \$300 level. Drop-in appointments are available for any library visitor pending availability and resources.

"Use of the TEA Room is available for: 1 supervising adult and up to 4 children in grades 3-6. The supervising adult stays in the TEA Room for the duration of the reservation. [...]"

***Find Out More***

The [Tea Room Web page](#) has tabs with more information on:

- Scheduled TEA Room classes
- Web links for TEA Room projects
- Using the TEA Room and reserving time in it

**What's New in the TEA Room**

***Here are excerpts from Darien Library's announcement:***

***CODING***

We have fun new technology to help your kids learn the ins and outs of coding! Build Sammy the Coding Robot with simple colored cubes, then use physical code cards to guide Sammy on a food-filled adventure.

With Bloxels explore the design side of coding. Using small colorful blocks, kids can design pixelated video game characters, backgrounds, and interactive objects, and then write stories for their characters.

Cubelets teach kids basic robotics by intuitively combining robot cubes to make uniquely functioning robots.

***DIY Crafts***

Stretch creative muscles with these fantastic new crafting projects! Kids can make an adorable origami bookmark, learn quilling techniques to make a card, design their own unique kokeshi doll, braid a colorful bracelet, or decorate show-stopping feather earrings.

***ARCHITECTURE***

Discover where art and engineering intersect with exciting new architecture toys!

The Mini Dormer model kit gives kids a chance to design the modernist building of their dreams with colorful, modular building components.

Structure Sticks can be combined in endless possibilities to create strong-yet-flexible structures that are as limitless as your child's imagination.

*COMPUTING*

Explore basic computing with a marble-powered computer! The Turing Tumble walks kids through the basics of how a computer works with an interactive graphic novel.

Kids start with basic challenges, assembling increasingly complicated marble processing units as they learn more and more about computing processes.