

EdTech

SUMMER HOLIDAY GUIDE

It can be challenging to find holiday activities for digitally savvy young ones. There are plenty of edtech (educational technology) avenues to explore this summer, however, and we've compiled a rundown of our favourites...

For the gamer

There are some excellent free (or cheap) platforms out there which let budding programmers create their own games and characters. Children can discover the basics of game design as they learn how to build characters and make them speak, move and interact with each other. Young ones can construct a game from scratch and then share it with their friends.

Try: [Play Lab at code.org](http://PlayLab.atcode.org) • [Toca Builders](http://TocaBuilders.com)

For the photographer

If your child is an aspiring photographer or loves fine-tuning images before posting them on social media, there are options which young people may find less daunting than Photoshop. As well as editing and adjusting photos, making illustrations or converting between image formats, some packages are geared towards illustration while others let you work with raster and vector graphics.

Try: [Photopea](http://Photopea.com) • [Sumopaint](http://Sumopaint.com) • [PhotoGrid](http://PhotoGrid.com)

For the sports fan

Video games are usually seen as reducing the time young people spend exercising. However, there is a genre that encourages physical activity: from music-based games that get users up and dancing, to sports simulators where the controller becomes a tennis racket. Devices' ability to track movement in real time and translate it into a game can make physical activity less of a chore.

Try: [Runkeeper](http://Runkeeper.com) • [Strava](http://Strava.com) • [Zombies, Run!](http://ZombiesRun.com) (12+)

For the coder

Online, you can find a selection of programming environments where users can learn to make simple apps. Young people can design an app, code it in JavaScript or work in text-based language, then share their newly created app with friends. With millions of aspiring coders in the world, the internet has an abundance of tutorials to get young ones started.

Try: [App Lab at code.org](http://AppLab.atcode.org) • [Dance Party at code.org](http://DanceParty.atcode.org) • [Flappy Code at code.org](http://FlappyCode.atcode.org) • [Hour of Code](http://HourOfCode.com)

For the explorer

Young adventurers can discover the world from new perspectives – strolling Tokyo's streets or soaring over Yosemite. For those with virtual reality headsets, Google Earth VR puts the whole planet within reach, while – even further afield – youngsters can use their device to delve into the wonders of our solar system with virtual tours of NASA's labs and mission control centres.

Try: [Google Maps Treks](http://GoogleMapsTrek.com) • [Google Earth VR](http://GoogleEarthVR.com) • [NASA at Home: Virtual Tours](http://NASAatHome.com)

For the avid reader

Your child's smartphone or tablet can become an inspirational learning tool that fires their imagination while improving their reading, vocabulary, spelling and comprehension. Mobile reading apps and audiobook libraries are worth setting some screen time aside for. As well as developing young ones' language skills, they also encourage the unbridled bliss of enjoying a good story.

Try: [Hoopla](http://Hoopla.com) • [Epic](http://Epic.com) • [Audible](http://Audible.com)

For the musician

Learning to play an instrument and creating music electronically has become much easier thanks to technology. As the field keeps advancing, more software is being created – and there are many applications which are compatible with various devices, including mobile phones. For example, your child could start their journey to becoming a superstar DJ with real-time mixing and editing tools.

Try: [Let's Play Kids Music: Summer Musical](http://Let'sPlayKidsMusic.com) • [GarageBand](http://GarageBand.com) • [Transitions DJ](http://TransitionsDJ.com) • [YouTube music tutorials](http://YouTube.com)

For the historian

Virtual tourism boomed when the pandemic cancelled everyone's travel plans. Let technology transport you to jaw-dropping historical sites or inside some of the world's most inspiring museums. Explore the Colosseum or the Amazon rainforest in VR, take a virtual tour of the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park or step inside the British Museum without leaving your living room!

Try: [HistoryView Virtual Library](http://HistoryView.com) • [The British Museum – Google Street View](http://TheBritishMuseum.com) • [The National Museum of Computing 3D Virtual Tour](http://TheNationalMuseum.com)

For the artist

Unleash your child's creative streak over the holidays with these arts and craft activity ideas! Most are quick and easy to make with materials you'll probably already have at home. There are ideas for young artists of all abilities, so you're sure to find a few exciting projects to try out. Children could also take a virtual tour of some stunning galleries and art installations.

Try: [Artist at code.org](http://Artist.atcode.org) • [Summer crafts for kids at Activity Village](http://SummerCrafts.com) • [Summer arts and crafts at Projects with Kids](http://SummerArts.com) • [Google Arts and Culture – virtual reality tours you'll love](http://GoogleArts.com)

Meet Our Expert

Gary Reddin is Leader of the Virtual Curriculum at Alt Bridge School, a specialist provision school in Liverpool. He has supported the integration of technology into the teaching practice across the curriculum to empower young people to reach their academic potential and prepare for life beyond school.



National Online Safety

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