**Work It Out @ Your Library with the Wombats!**

**Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/work-it-out-wombats.html>

This webinar will introduce you to [*Work It Out @ Your Library!*](https://www.wgbh.org/foundation/gbh-education/early-learning/work-it-out-your-library) a new program for families in your community, built around [*Work it Out Wombats!,*](https://pbskids.org/wombats) a national PBS KIDS television series for 4- to 6-year-olds. Through hands-on activities, library storytime sessions, animated videos, and a family app, this flexible program helps library staff guide families through the exploration of computational thinking. Computational thinking is a creative way of solving problems in more organized ways. When children make believe they're running a restaurant, they explore *sequencing* by figuring out the steps for serving a customer a meal. When they play with blocks to make a castle, they can practice the *design* process by creating, testing, and improving the structure. Library staff are uniquely suited to promote this learning with their library families. The webinar will cover why computational thinking skills are important for young children, how the free resources have been used to run fun and engaging programs in libraries, and how you can, too.

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| **What are your personal and team goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Computational Thinking** | |
| Understanding how kids learn computational thinking (CT) can help you bring intentionality to your work with young patrons and their families. Learn more about CT in this PBS handout, [Preschool Computational Thinking (CT)](https://static.pbslearningmedia.org/media/media_files/189c8e1a-1a94-4c9e-bd43-2926694f35c2/6110116e-f202-4a64-b811-28bbd7836729.pdf) or watch the 3:34 minute video “What Is Computational Thinking?” shared in the resources for families on [PBS Learning Media](https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/waisl34-prek-families/for-families-what-is-work-it-out-your-library/).  After learning more, how would you define CT if a parent or colleague asked you to explain in a few sentences?  What are some examples of the ways kids learn and use CT skills to solve problems?  Find additional resources from [PLA on Computational Thinking](https://www.ala.org/pla/initiatives/familyengagement/compthinking). | |

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| **Current family outreach programming** |
| Think about your current family outreach programming and consider the following questions:   1. Do you focus on STEM topics in your outreach to families? If so, which ones? If not, why not? 2. Do you currently use any multimedia resources from public broadcasting, either as part of workshops or events with families or as resources you recommend? If so, which resources do you use? If not, why not? 3. Do you feel confident integrating multimedia resources into your family programming? If not, what would help? Professional development or other training? |
| **Take Action** |
| 1. Visit the Work It Out @ Your Library with the Wombats! collection on [PBS LearningMedia](https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/work-it-out-your-library/); watch the videos, review the units and plan to try one out with your library families. 2. Explore resources in the Wombats CT Corner Digital Toolkit ([bit.ly/CTCorner](http://bit.ly/CTCorner)) and print out resources to share in programming and in a display at your library. The kit includes booklists, signage, along with coloring and activity sheets. 3. Consider hosting a CT-themed story time for young children and families using one of the many books from the Wombats annotated booklists (see [bit.ly/CTCorner](http://bit.ly/CTCorner)) and fun activities, like finger puppets or unicorn crowns. |