VOL 1 | ISSUE 2 | MARCH / APRIL 2025

Dear educators and administrators,

Thank you for joining us for the second edition of the ***Coding with Cornell Newsletter***, inspired by the ***Coding with Cornell*** book series for children in grades K-4. We loved the response we received from the first issue, and we can't wait to share more with you!

This issue continues to provide tools, stories, and inspiration to make coding a transformative experience for your students. Don't forget your free poster on the reverse of this page! Let's explore the opportunities coding offers for all classrooms!

Bring Coding with Cornell to Your School

Introduce your students to the world of ***Coding with Cornell***!

Whether you're looking to integrate the reader books into your curriculum, add the workbooks as activity-based learning material, or host a visit from the author, Ronesha D. Dennis, we'd love to support your efforts in inspiring young coders.

Email us at **schools@codingwithcornell.com** to learn more and explore these opportunities!

Let's Build Confidence Together

As an instructor, I've taught coding to students as young as 5 and as old as 25 through non-traditional coding programs. A recurring theme is that older students often doubt themselves, while the youngest are fearless in reaching their coding goals.

I often think of a student from 2017, seven-year-old Dimitri, who learned to code with Scratch in just ten weeks and created his own version of Super Mario Bros. His story shows what's possible when children are introduced to coding early—before doubt sets in.

That's why **Coding with Cornell** introduces coding to children in underrepresented communities in STEM. By fostering confidence early, we help more students see themselves as future STEM leaders.

- Ronesha D. Dennis

Code With Us

Try this exercise with your young learners!

Prompt: Do you have a favorite toy? Is it the same as your friend's favorite toy? What about your favorite animal—do you like the same animal as your sibling or classmate? In coding, we can use special tools called **operators** to compare things and see if they are the same or different.

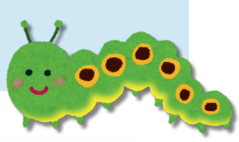
When we compare two things in Python, it will tell us if they are **True** (yes, they are the same) or **False** (no, they are not the same). Let's learn how to do this using **==** (equal to) and **!=** (not equal to).


```
my_toy = "teddy bear"
friend_toy = "robot"
print(my_toy == friend_toy)
```

This code prints **False** because "teddy bear" and "robot" are not the same.

```
my_animal = "dog"
friend_animal = "cat"
print(my_animal != friend_animal)
```

This code prints **True** because "dog" and "cat" are different.



Comparison Operators

The above example focuses on **==** and **!=** operators. Python has four other comparison operators, including **>** (greater than), **<** (less than), **>=** (greater than or equal to) and **<=** (less than or equal to).

Code-Along with Our Author

Invite your students to participate in Code-Along activities on the website! Visit **www.codingwithcornell.com** to try the latest code along!