What Is Scratch Jr.?

From the Scratch Jr. web page: https://www.scratchjr.org/

“Coding (or computer programming) is a new type of literacy. Just as writing helps you organize your thinking and express your ideas, the same is true for coding. In the past, coding was seen as too difficult for most people. But we think coding should be for everyone, just like writing.

As young children code with ScratchJr, they learn how to create and express themselves with the computer, not just to interact with it. In the process, children learn to solve problems and design projects, and they develop sequencing skills that are foundational for later academic success. They also use math and language in a meaningful and motivating context, supporting the development of early-childhood numeracy and literacy. With ScratchJr, children aren't just learning to code, they are coding to learn.”

Scratch Jr. can be downloaded from the Apple Store, from the Android Store, or as a standalone Mac or Windows application. See the Scratch Jr. Downloads page.
I hate mornings!

What Kind of People Need to Tell the Computer How to Move Things Around?
Start by clicking the House

Then click the plus sign ( + )
Clicking on the Settings Gear Will Let You Change the Language

Clicking on the Question Mark Will Allow You To Play an Introductory Video (3:28) and Try Some Sample Programs
These 6 buttons are super-important! They help you find the puzzle pieces to make your character act in your movie.
Drag Puzzle Pieces Out and Click the Green Flag

When the Green Flag Gets Waved at a Car Race, What Happens?

http://www.skirtsandscuffs.com/2011_03_01_archive.html
So, When the Scratch Jr. Green Flag Gets Clicked (Waved), Your Programs Start

Whatever Your Puzzle Pieces Say, That's What Your Character Will Do
The Yellow Button – When to Start This Program

- Start all programs that have a Green Flag Puzzle Piece
- Start this program when I touch this character with my mouse or finger
- Start this program when another character touches this character

The Blue Button – Making Your Character Move

- Move the character to the right, left, up, and down
- Rotate the character
- Make the character hop
- Make the character go back to where it started from

Hint #1: the biggest number you can enter is 99
Hint #2: entering a number of 12 for a rotation gives a full turn

Clicking on the number will bring up a calculator to get your character to take longer steps, more rotations, or higher hops
**Adding More Characters**

Click on this plus sign (➕) to select a new character from the big list.

Keep scrolling – there are lots more!

**Hint:** to make this new character move, they need to have a program written for them too.

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**Adding a Background**

Click this photograph to select a background from the big list.

Keep scrolling – there are lots more!
**The Orange Button -- Control**

- Wait some amount of time (the number is in \(\frac{1}{10}\)ths of a second)
- Set the character’s speed (there will be 3 choices when you click the down-facing triangle)
- Whatever puzzle pieces you put in here will get repeated as many times as the number
- Stop the character

**The Purple Button – Changing Your Character’s Appearance**

- Give the character a thought bubble (click *hi* to enter new text)
- Make the character bigger or smaller
- Make the character its original size
- Make the character vanish or re-appear
If you are on an iPad, you might have to make the microphone work by going to:

Settings → Scratch Jr → Microphone slide

Using this puzzle piece in your program will play a popping sound.

This isn’t a puzzle piece. It is a command to let you record your own sound.

If you are on an iPad, you might have to make the microphone work by going to:

Settings → Scratch Jr → Microphone slide

Start recording
Stop recording
Play back your recording

You will now have a new puzzle piece to play the recording you just made.
The Red Button – Stopping, Looping, and Jumping to a New Room

Stop the program
Re-run the program forever

If you have more than one room, you can also use this puzzle piece to jump to another room

Warning! Scratch Jr. Doesn’t Save Your Movie Program Until You Hit the Home on Your Screen
And, When You Do Hit the Home on Your Screen, Scratch Jr. Will Show You All Your Movies – Just Click on One to Get Back Into It

Painting!

There are times when Scratch Jr. will let you paint! Look for this icon:

- When selecting a character.
- When selecting a background.
Painting!
Clicking on takes you here to the Scratch Jr. paint screen:

- Select a line or fill color
- Select a line thickness
- Draw a squiggle, oval, rectangle, or triangle
- Rotate the thing you’ve selected
- Duplicate the thing you’ve selected
- Cut (delete) the thing you’ve selected
- Take a photo (maybe of yourself!)
- Fill with paint

Using the Camera
You can use the camera to add photos to the background or a character. You might have already noticed that some of the characters have empty faces:

If you click the paintbrush that is with one of these characters, then click on the camera, then click on the face area of the character, then click on the snapshot icon, whatever your camera sees will be on the character’s face.
Adding a Title

Click on the ABC then type your title.

Adding another Room

Click on this plus sign (➕) to add another room. A room is a whole separate scene where you can add new characters, add a new background, and write new programs for your characters to act out.
Adding another Room

If you have more than one room, you can also use this puzzle piece to jump to another room.

The Yellow Button – Advanced

Start this program when another character shouts a color name.

Shout the name of a color! The down-facing triangle lets you pick the color name to shout.
Clicking on This Little Yellow Tab in the Upper-Right Corner Will Allow You to Give Your Program a Title

So That Your Home Gallery Has Better Titles than “Project N”
A Good Scratch Jr. Book

I like this book. It is an easy read and has lots of color pictures of Scratch Jr. examples.


Kindle: $10, Paperback $20.