

App Evaluation

Title: Swift Playgrounds

Version: 3.4

Publisher/Producer/Creator: Apple Inc.

Target Audience: Made for anyone ages 4 and up, but I would not recommend using this app for students to learn about coding until grades 5 and up.

Type(s) of Software: Drill and Practice/Tutorial/Problem Solving-It is a drill and practice, because early on you learn how to code, and as you progress, you are repeating similar steps over and over again. It is a tutorial due to the user learning how to code, but once the student catches on it quickly becomes drill and practice. In order to learn code, users are presented with a problem or a scenario where their character has to hit buttons or gems to pass a level, so the problem that needs to be solved each time is they have to enter functions or codes to accomplish what is required.

Curriculum(s): In a business-technology class, yes this application can assist in introducing the basic concepts of coding to students. I would not have this app necessarily as the center of instruction, but it is a good idea to have to get students introduced to coding.

Cost: Free

Explaining the Software: Once you open the app for the first time, it will ask what your experience is with coding, and like most people, you will probably want to hit "Learn to Code." From there it teaches you the basics of writing code. It teaches you by having you accomplish objectives with a character by giving it commands. The app walks you through all this and if you get stuck, it eventually gives you the solution. It is a great problem solving app, and will really get students to think and to see if they follow directions.

Impressions / Can I Use it in My Class? I think even if it isn't a technology class, this app can be greatly utilized. I think students would be interested in this app, and it is applicable. It is also a great problem solving tool, and will really get students' minds moving. Now would I go out of my way to use this app in instruction? No, not necessarily, but it could be utilized in a business technology class to keep kids interested.

Does the software pass Review?

Yes

Does the software pass Evaluation?

Yes