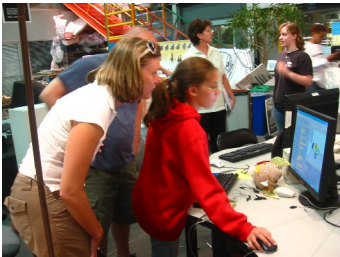


# The Triple C Podcast

Media Lab—LifeLong Kindergarten—Summer 2007

“Collaboratively Concocted Contraptions” or “Triple C” for short, is a podcast that featured seven local talented students, including three of the STEM program’s own, learning about design this past summer. The podcast’s pre-teen stars completed challenges that called for collaboration amongst themselves to build contraptions based on a theme. The podcast sought to promote aspects of working in a collaborative environment that contributed to developing unique design styles. The podcast’s crew, which consisted of MIT, Boston University, and Wellesley undergraduates, intentionally facilitated a design environment in which challenges were not organized around a competition, but rather around the spirit of teamwork.



Some of the exciting challenges centered around themes of digital storytelling, virtual sensory pets, and even a full-scale operating haunted house! The foundation of each challenge was the new programming software, *Scratch*, developed by a team at MIT Media Lab’s LifeLong Kindergarten. Briefly speaking, Scratch allows an online programming interface to communicate with a sensory board adorned with light, sound, and touch capabilities; most importantly, Scratch is kid-friendly and requires no previous knowledge of programming!

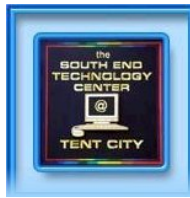
The Triple C Podcast was a research exploration of ways to engage young people of diverse backgrounds in activities that provide a foundation for understanding concepts in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) related fields. The challenge this research took on was developing activities that put learners in contact with STEM ideas while starting from a paradigm that differs from traditional robotic competitions – a well established pipeline into STEM careers. The aim of this project was to open more pathways to STEM that emphasize collaboration over competition and building creative contraptions. Although there is a possibility of continuing the podcast, more established opportunities exist in the Boston area and even at your very own home! See the back of this sheet for more details.

*For more info, email us at: [contrapio@mit.edu](mailto:contrapio@mit.edu)*

How can we get involved?

## Resources

### **South End Technology Center**



**Description:** The South End Technology Center @ Tent City (The Tech Center) is a collaborative venture between the Tent City Corporation (TCC) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Our fundamental purpose is to enable people to become producers of knowledge and sharers of ideas and information. Our scope and methods are as diverse as the people we serve. We provide free or low-cost access and training in most aspects of computer-related technology. The staff, mostly volunteers, have extensive backgrounds in computer technology and their applications

**Contact:** 617.578.0597

**Email:** [setc@tech-center-enlightencity.tv](mailto:setc@tech-center-enlightencity.tv)

**Website:** <http://www.tech-center-enlightencity.tv/>

### **Computer Clubhouse**



**Description:** The Computer Clubhouse provides a creative and safe after-school learning environment where young people from under-served communities work with adult mentors to explore their own ideas, develop skills, and build confidence in themselves through the use of technology. Established in 1993 by The Computer Museum (now part of the Museum of Science, Boston) in collaboration with the MIT Media Laboratory, the Computer Clubhouse helps youth acquire the tools necessary for personal and professional success.

**Contact:** 617.589.0466

**Email:** [ClubhouseWeb@mos.org](mailto:ClubhouseWeb@mos.org)

**Website:** <http://www.computerclubhouse.org/sat.htm>

### **Media Lab: Lifelong Kindergarten**



**Description:** The Lifelong Kindergarten group is sowing the seeds for a more creative society. We develop new technologies that, in the spirit of the blocks and fingerpaint of kindergarten, expand the range of what people design, create, and invent—and what they learn in the process. Our ultimate goal is a world full of playfully creative people, who are constantly inventing new possibilities for themselves and their communities.

**Email:** [llkcontact@media.mit.edu](mailto:llkcontact@media.mit.edu)

**Website:** <http://llk.media.mit.edu>

### **Scratch**

**Description:** Scratch is a new programming language that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web. Scratch is designed to help young people (ages 8 and up) develop 21st century learning skills. As they create Scratch projects, young people learn important mathematical and computational ideas, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the process of design.



**Website:** <http://scratch.mit.edu/about>