

Unplugged Coding: Feed the Mouse

About the game

Use a deck of cards to design a path for a mouse. Place some 'food' on the path for the mouse to collect. Move the mouse through the path without missing any food. This game teaches about **algorithms** and **debugging**.

An **algorithm** is a group of instructions written by the programmer to tell the computer what to do. **Debugging** is finding and fixing a problem in a program.

Things you will need

- Two players
 - One person will give instructions on how to move the mouse (**Programmer**)
 - The other person will move the mouse based on the instructions (**Computer**)
- A deck of cards
- A small toy/object (this will be the mouse)
- Small toys/objects (this will be the food)

How to play

Set up a path for the mouse using the deck of cards. The path can be as long or short as your space allows. We created a small maze on a desk – see photo below.



The **Programmer** gives instructions to guide the mouse through the path to collect the 'food'.

For example, 'Move Forward 2 cards'... 'Turn Left'... 'Move forward 2 cards'.

The **computer** moves the mouse as instructed.

The difficulty level of the game can be increased by adding more cards to make a complex path or by adding obstacles that the mouse must avoid.