



Supporting CoderDojo Girls

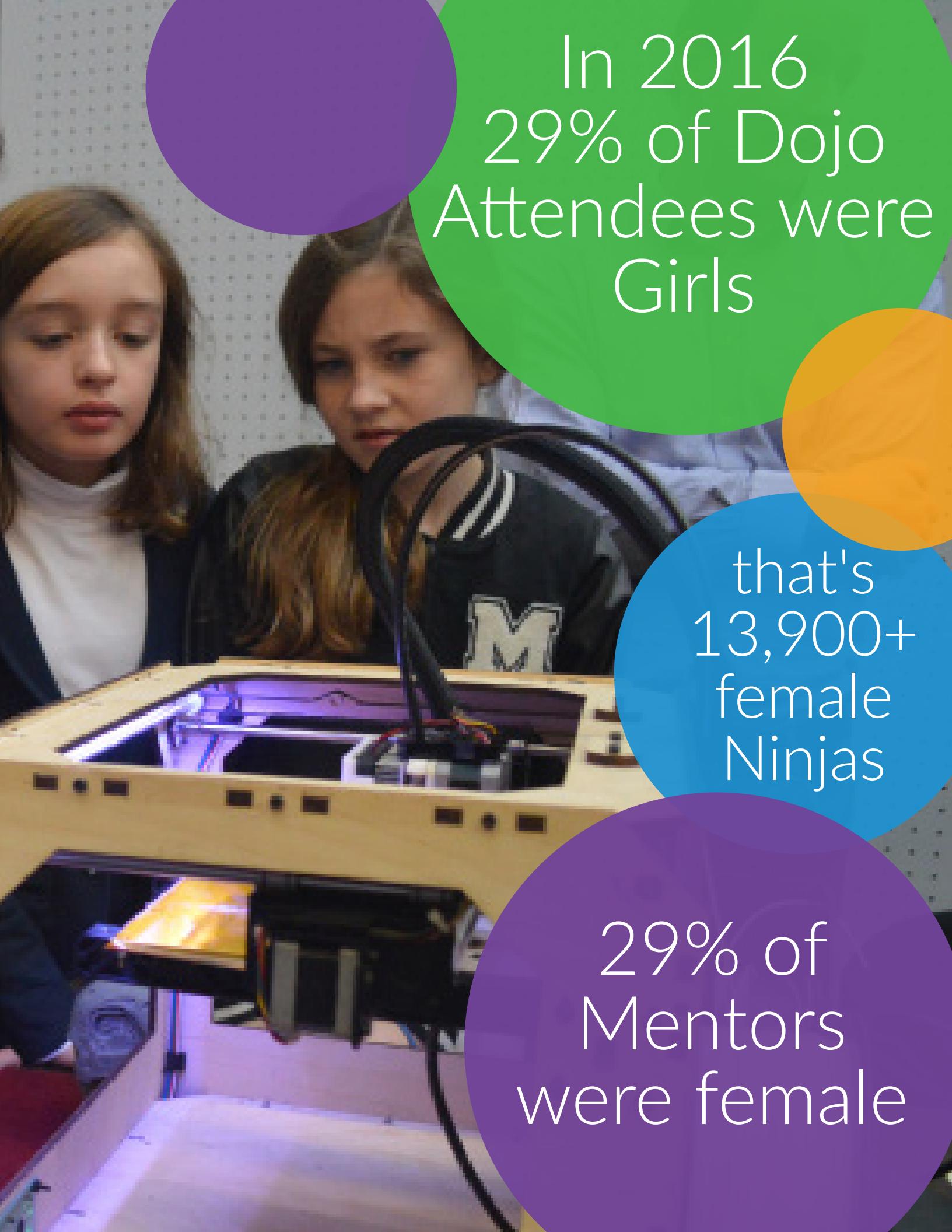
A Guide for Parents & Guardians



**“Don’t let anyone or
anything stop you”**

—Garima Singh

Founder of Round Rock Dojo, Texas

A photograph of two young girls, one with a 'M' on her shirt, working on a 3D printer. They are looking down at the machine, which is printing a yellow object. The background is a light-colored wall.

In 2016
29% of Dojo
Attendees were
Girls

that's
13,900+
female
Ninjas

29% of
Mentors
were female

Why should my daughter join CoderDojo?

CoderDojo gives your daughter an opportunity to learn how to code and create with technology. Coding (also called programming) is the instructions that people write to tell technology what to do!

Why is it important for girls to learn code?

Learning to code gives girls the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to understand the increasingly digital world that we live in. CoderDojo gives young people a unique opportunity to be creative and express themselves through their projects. For one girl this may be creating a website showcasing their favourite sports team, while for another it could be developing an educational app to help with learning how to spell. This leads girls on a learning journey to improving various soft skills such communication, mentoring, teamwork and presentation skills. It also helps develop their resilience and perseverance as coding is an iterative problem-solving process.

“An understanding of computer science is becoming increasingly essential in today’s world”

Sheryl Sandberg,
COO Facebook



What will my daughter learn at a Dojo?

Initially, she will learn hard technical skills such as how to build a website using HTML and CSS or how to create an app using Javascript or how to design a game. In addition, your daughter will learn an abundance of soft skills, including: collaboration, idea and thought sharing, problem-solving, goal-setting, project management, and how to support herself and others in an inclusive, free and fun environment. All of these skills will serve your daughter whatever she chooses to do as she grows older!



Rewarding Progress

Many Dojos use **digital badges** as a way to acknowledge and represent skills achieved by attendees at Dojos. They are similar to a digital version of a scouts badge which are awarded once someone reaches a certain level, learns a particular skill or attends a certain number of Dojos. In CoderDojo we believe that creativity should be rewarded! There are many benefits to digital badges, they serve as proof of achievement and can be built up similar to a digital CV. They are a great method of validating skills which aren't always visible. Ninjas, Mentors and Champions can all be awarded badges!



Supporting your daughter's learning journey

Children under 15 are often required to have a parent/guardian accompany them for the duration of a Dojo. As a result, many parents engage in volunteering, often learning in tandem with their daughters. This creates a supportive learning atmosphere. Young girls who see their guardians & peers helping out and learning too are often more engaged with their own projects.

Remember, learning to program can be a challenging experience for many young people. Often the biggest challenge new programmers face is not around their skill set, but around their mindset. Youths with a fixed mindset perceive their capacity for understanding to be set in stone and determined by their initial experience of the topic.

Encourage your daughter to have a **growth mindset** and see learning as an ongoing process throughout her life where new skills simply haven't been learnt yet. With a growth mindset, failures become part of the journey which once examined, helps to develop their understanding. Spur them on by celebrating their minor successes, which in turn will help build their confidence.



Provide toys and resources that facilitate tech creativity. Our brand new book, **CoderDojo Nano: Create with Code**, is great for encouraging girls to develop coding skills at their own pace.



“CoderDojo is really fun; I like designing cool projects and making things work myself just how I want them to.”

-Lexi

There is a wealth of free, easy to follow, learning resources available to parents from CoderDojo. On [our website](#) parents can find and print out “Sushi Cards”: these are easy to follow concept cards for various programming languages.

Additional Resources

[Make a Flappy Bird Game: Hour of Code \(Ages 6-10\)](#)

[Minecraft: Hour of Code \(Ages 6-10\)](#)

[Frozen Puzzle: Hour of Code \(Ages 8-10\)](#)

[Starwars Javascript Puzzle: Hour of Code \(Ages 11+\)](#)

[My First Website: CoderDojo Sushi Card HTML/CSS \(Ages 8-12\)](#)

[Intermediate HTML/CSS: CoderDojo Sushi Card \(Ages 9-13\)](#)

[codecademy.com also provides free resources suitable for older girls](#)

“As a non-technical mum I was surprised at how interested I became in my daughter’s projects. I never thought I’d enjoy helping her, but it’s amazing how easy CoderDojo makes learning code. If I can learn a few things anyone can”

-Rachel



