

The Story Behind Rugged Robot



Why was Rugged Robot developed?

Have you ever met our other programming buddies, Bee Bot and Blue Bot? These two popular robots have inspired young programmers across the globe, introducing them to the fundamentals of coding in fun and engaging ways.

Notice a problem, find a solution

After a while, our team at TTS began to notice a recurring theme - many of these robots were being returned to us in need of repair. The reason? They had embarked on some rather adventurous outdoor escapades. While Bee-Bot and Blue-Bot are fantastic in the classroom, they simply weren't designed to brave the elements!

This sparked an idea among our developers. What if we could create a programmable robot that wasn't just confined to indoor use but was built to withstand the rigors of the great outdoors? A robot that could journey through a variety of terrains, from muddy puddles to long grass, all while teaching children the principles of coding and computational thinking. The three torque settings were introduced to enable the robot to travel on different surfaces.

And so, the concept of Rugged Robot was born. Our team of developers set out to design a robot that could go where no other TTS robot had gone before – outside. With sturdy, chunky wheels, a tough outer shell, and a similar easy to use interface that made Bee-Bot and Blue-Bot so popular, Rugged Robot was ready to take on any adventure. Rugged Robot was launched in 2018. Our first ever outdoor robot.



Rugged Robot wins awards

In 2019, after extensive testing and tweaking, Rugged Robot made its debut at the BETT show, the world's largest education technology event. The response was overwhelming, and Rugged Robot even won the prestigious BETT award, confirming that our little robot was truly something special.



Listening to the needs of educators

The development of Rugged Robot wasn't just about creating a new product; it was about listening to educators, understanding the challenges they faced, and finding innovative solutions that would make learning both effective and exciting. To ensure Rugged was ready for the world stage, our team even travelled to China to finalise the design and production. It was a global effort, driven by a shared passion for education and innovation.

Rugged Robot became the first outdoor robot designed specifically for teaching programming and has since gone on to help many children explore, experiment and learn - both inside and outside the classroom. Rugged Robot is more than just a resource; it's a testament to what can be achieved when creativity and practicality come together.

The datalogger backpack was launched later on as a response to customer feedback. Children were not only able to be curious about different environments but with the addition of the datalogging backpack were able to investigate and explore real-life data in a fun interactive way.

