

How do remote control devices communicate?

This activity is to help you child investigate the different devices and methods used daily that use technology to transmit and receive information.

Materials:

- Television remote
- Garage door opener
- Any other remote control devices
- Cell phone
- Access to the internet

Experiment procedure:

1. Start with the device of your choice. Discover what happens when the device is used.
 - Is there light emitted?
 - Does it have to be “pointed” at a specific spot?
 - What powers the device?
2. Go online and research the device and how it works.
3. Repeat the process with the other devices.
4. If you have apps on your phone or computer that control different devices in your home—such as the lights, locks, or thermostat—investigate how they work.

Here are some questions to discuss with your child:

1. From what distance can each device still work accurately? Which remote works from the greatest distance? Why do you think that is?
2. How have these devices improved the ways we live and communicate?
3. Before the development of these remotes, how were the different activities done?
4. What is your favorite piece of information technology? Why?