

For Immediate Release



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Wonderscope's New "Road to Readiness" Program Prepares Children and Parents for Kindergarten Success

SHAWNEE, KAN (August 1, 2018) – Beginning August 1, Wonderscope is launching "Road to Readiness," a new, free program designed to prepare children for kindergarten using a customized curriculum with a series of intentional Wonderscope learning experiences packaged in a colorful booklet for children and their parents who attend the museum regularly.

"Kindergarten is a significant milestone for any child and family. The excitement, worry and anxiety are all normal feelings," said Roxane Hill, Executive Director. "At Wonderscope, we want to be the learning partner for all families. We believe that developing the whole child is a collective responsibility of the community."

The program was developed by the Education Committee of Wonderscope, made up of early childhood educators, therapists and administrators, and staff, utilizing the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP). DRDP is an assessment tool that is made up of eight domains with each domain focusing on the acquisition of knowledge, skills, or behaviors and is a development continuum from early infancy to kindergarten entry.

The program is a comprehensive tool yet can be completed in as little as eight weeks. It is divided into eight sections identified by Wonderscope exhibits: The Farm; The Market; Raceway; Tinkerspace; Ready, Vet, Go!; Artworks; H2oh!; and the Wonder Gym; together with the daily program offerings. Each section provides seven to eight activities to complete with tips for conversation/extension with the child as well as key words to incorporate into conversation in each room. In addition, the activities have a letter code that identifies them with an important developmental area: Arts, History and Social Science, Language and Literacy, Math and Cognitive, Physical Health and Development, and Social-Emotional Skills and Self Recognition.

Wonderscope carefully aligned each component with DRDP domains in a colorful, easy to follow booklet that allows parents to capture activity, through pictures, drawings or examples of work that ultimately becomes a comprehensive portfolio of the child's progress. There are checklists, key words and concepts for learning together with activities to try outside of the museum.

"The exhibits and programs build on the principle of educating the whole child through STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts, and math," said Katya Strekalova-Hughes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education at University of Missouri-Kansas City and Chair of the Wonderscope Education Committee.

Road to Readiness is free of charge with the price of admission and completely free for museum members. Low-income families who qualify for public assistance may utilize Wonderscope's reduced ticket fee program called Museums for All or join as members through the Wonder Fund.

To get started, parents should ask for a free Road to Readiness booklet at the museum front desk. Once all the learning experiences are completed, parents are encouraged to return the booklet to Wonderscope staff so that a special "graduation" can be scheduled for the child. At graduation, children will receive their diploma and school supplies for the first day of kindergarten. Parents will receive the Road to Readiness booklet back serving as a portfolio of the child's development.

About Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City

Founded in 1989, Wonderscope Children's Museum of Kansas City provides fun, dynamic and hands-on exhibits and programs that integrate the arts, sciences, literature and music for children 10 years of age and younger, their parents and educators from across the metropolitan area. Its mission is to spark a lifelong love of learning through the power of play. To learn more, visit www.wonderscope.org, like at [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or follow on [Twitter](#).

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