

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE





MEET YOUR PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR

Hi, I'm Keosha - the new preschool educator at the Putnam Museum! I studied Art Education at Western Illinois University before earning my BFA in Studio Art.

Before coming to the Putnam, I'd spent seven years working in childcare and several summers at camp, where I fell in love with community-based learning. Now, I'm excited to bring that same energy to the Putnam—designing hands-on, STEM-based programs that spark curiosity and confidence in our youngest learners while helping them build early STEM skills that last a lifetime.

I still remember visiting the Putnam on field trips as a kid and being fascinated (and terrified) by the mummy. I'm so excited to share that same sense of wonder with a new generation of museum goers!

When I'm not at the museum, you can usually find me screen printing, exploring nature, or enjoying an iced coffee and a good book.

Preschool activities made possible in part with support from:

Prichard Family Charitable Trust





FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER

The Family Discovery Center at the Putnam Museum and Science Center is a warm, inviting space designed to strengthen family connections through shared exploration, play, and discovery. Created with our youngest learners in mind, the Center provides a safe and engaging environment where children and their caregivers can learn side-by-side through hands-on, age-appropriate interactives that spark curiosity and nurture early STEM and STEAM skills.

At the heart of the space is a soft-play zone where little ones can move, climb, build, and imagine freely. These tactile, movement-based experiences help young children develop coordination, confidence, and problem-solving skills—all while simply having fun. Nearby, the Family Tree invites families to select character pieces and place them on the tree, creating a playful visual representation of the people who shape their world. This interactive moment of identity-building encourages conversations about family, belonging, and what makes each household unique.

Throughout the Center, children and caregivers will find a rotating collection of STEAM storybooks, building blocks, and hands-on, open-ended materials that inspire creative thinking. These elements are intentionally chosen to support early learning through exploration.

Warm, welcoming, and thoughtfully designed, the Family Discovery Center reflects the Putnam's ongoing mission: to inspire imagination, spark lifelong curiosity, and provide enriching educational experiences for every family who walks through our doors.



CURRICULUM STANDARDS AND YOU

Our Education Department approaches curricula through an engaging lens. We cater to all learning styles and adhere to national and state standard for Iowa.

We strive to assist and support our community teachers, parents, and school administration with the task of helping students meet and exceed key curriculum benchmarks.

Partner with the Putnam Museum to access tools to enhance the learning of your students. As an area leader in non-formal education, the Putnam in-museum and outreach programs encourage hands-on experiences, utilization of technology, student-centered learning, and an overall dynamic experience!

Note: Program costs are \$75 per program.

Outreach travel fee is based on mileage and educator travel time. For scheduling outreach programs, contact Keosha Westphal at KWestphal@putnam.org or call (563) 336-7304.

Preschool Programs

IMPORTANT: Average length of a program is 30 minutes with a capacity of 25 students per program.



LET US DO THE DRIVING!

Programs available in museum and **available for outreach.**



And the Beat Goes On

Travel around the globe with a Putnam Museum Educator to learn about different groups of people and the music they create! Children will get the chance to play instruments from around the world and learn how music connects us all.

Iowa Standards: 2.2.PS, 3.4.PS, 4.2.PS, 5.2.PS, 6.1.PS, 7.2.PS



Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

Buzz into the wonderful world of insects! Learn more about the life of insects and the important roles they play with the help of our fun hands-on activities. Can you tell the difference between a bug and an insect?

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 5.1.PS, 8.3.PS



Dinosaurs

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to be a dinosaur? Would you be a carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore? How do scientists know so much about animals they've never seen? Let's explore the ancient world of dinosaurs together!

Iowa Standards: 2.2.PS, 2.3.PS, 3.4.PS, 4.4.PS, 8.1.PS



Weather ROCKS

Have you ever seen a cloud....in a BOTTLE? Clouds play a big role in creating the weather. We will explore different types of clouds and how they relate to weather systems. Students will have a chance to make a "rain cloud" and a "tornado," and discover the science behind them.

Iowa Standards: 3.1.PS, 3.3.PS, 4.3.PS, 8.3.PS



Engineer It!

How do the skyscrapers stand up so tall? What materials make a bridge stable? As engineers, we will build our own structures and then put them to the test. This program introduces our young students to the engineering design plan.

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 3.3.PS, 7.3.PS, 8.2.PS, 8.3.PS

Fun with Flight

What is behind the science of flight? Gravity and energy are just a few things that we will explore while learning the basics. Come on: let's fly into the big blue yonder and have Fun with Flight!

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 4.3.PS, 5.2.PS, 8.3.PS

Fun Physics

In this hands-on STEM adventure we will explore the exciting world of physics through play! Using wheels, ramps, levers, and pulleys, children will discover how simple machines make the world easier.

Iowa Standards: 1.4.PS, 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 3.4.PS, 7.5.PS, 8.1.PS

Germs.....Friend or Foe?

Have you ever seen a germ? Are they all bad? Let's find out together as we take a journey to discover the small and sometimes invisible organisms that cause sniffles and coughs. How can you protect yourself, your family and friends?

Iowa Standards: 2.1.PS, 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 5.2.PS, 8.3.PS

H₂WHOA!

Hands-on learning is always a blast – especially in water! Together we will build boats and test their bouyance. Will they sink....or float? Only H₂O will know!

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 3.4.PS, 4.3.PS, 6.1.PS, 8.1.PS, 8.3.PS

Magnets Mania

Get ready for some magnet magic! In this lesson, preschoolers explore the invisible force of magnetism through exciting demonstrations and hands-on discovery. Students will test different materials and compare how objects attract or repel.

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 3.3.PS, 3.4.PS, 7.5.PS, 8.1.PS





Using My 5 Senses

Let's examine our given senses! Together we will explore each sense and learn more about their inner workings. Next, we will put our senses to the test! Can you tell me what you see, smell, hear, taste, and touch?

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 4.3.PS, 5.1.PS, 6.1.PS, 6.3.PS, 8.3.PS

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

There's only one planet and it's our job to take care of it. Students will be taught the importance of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Learn how small people can make a big difference!

Iowa Standards: 2.2.PS, 2.3.PS, 3.3.PS, 4.3.PS, 6.1.PS, 8.3.PS

Riveting Robots

The Putnam Museum and Science Center has friends we would like to introduce to you. Our family of preschool friendly robots is looking forward to showing off their amazing abilities – but they need your help! Are you up for the challenge?

Iowa Standards: 2.3.PS, 3.1.PS, 3.2.PS, 3.3.PS, 6.1.PS, 8.1.PS

Visit our website for program details, movies, and exhibit information!

www.putnam.org/education/

Preschool Story Times

Join us at the Putnam Museum for Story Time on our GIANT Screen Theater! Each month will feature a beloved children's story followed by themed crafts or STEM activities in the Grand Lobby.

These events are **FREE** and open to the public.

All Story Times take place from 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM



THE SNOWY DAY

January 28, 2026

Enjoy sparkling snowflake-themed crafts and a simple, snowman science experiment!

IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A DINOSAUR

August 26, 2026

Become mini paleontologists by creating pasta "fossils" and watching a dinosaur volcano erupt!

LOVE, Z

February 25, 2026

Explore early coding and math concepts by creating simple "binary" bracelets using patterns of colorful beads and pipe cleaners!

ROISE REVERE, ENGINEER

September 23, 2026

Put your problem-solving skills to the test in a classic engineering challenge—building the tallest tower using marshmallows and toothpicks!

MUNCHA! MUNCHA! MUNCHA!

March 25, 2026

Dig into hands-on learning by planting a seed to take home and care for as it grows!

PUMPKIN JACK

October 28, 2026

Create jack-o'-lantern art using a simple printmaking technique and experience the silly science of our Puking Pumpkin!

THERE WAS AN OLD ASTRONAUT WHO SWALLOWED THE MOON

April 22, 2026

Experiment with air and motion as we build and launch straw rockets!

BEAR SAYS THANKS

November 25, 2026

Celebrate kindness and gratitude by contributing to a collaborative gratitude tree and creating your own bear masks to take home!

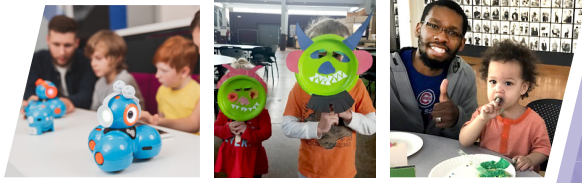
DIARY OF A WORM

May 27, 2026

Make your own wiggly worms, decorating and assembling fun paper worms you can play with and make wiggle!



KINDER EXPLORERS



2025-2026 WORKSHOPS

\$12/Program • \$10/Members

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE SATURDAYS FROM 10 AM - 11 AM

All Kinder Explorer workshops are led by Ms. Keosha, who specializes in creating engaging, age-appropriate learning experiences for young children. Each session includes a themed story time and hands-on activities related to the story. A parent or guardian is required to accompany their child to support participation and learning.

ENGINEERING

September 20, 2025

Build simple machines and solve creative challenges. Led by museum educators, these sessions foster curiosity and teamwork in a fun, engaging environment.

MISSION TO SPACE

February 21, 2026

Take an imaginative journey through the solar system. This hands-on experience encourages curiosity about space science while sparking creativity.

MYSTERIOUS MUSEUM

October 18, 2025

Uncover secrets hidden within the museum through hands-on activities and interactive exploration. Discover hidden treasures for an educational adventure.

CHEMISTRY

March 21, 2026

Dive into exciting experiments led by museum Educators. Through hands-on activities, kids explore chemical reactions and scientific concepts in a fun, interactive setting.

ROBOTS

November 15, 2025

See Dash and Dot robots that can navigate mazes, complete tasks, and even dance. This hands-on experience sparks creativity and problem-solving skills while introducing the basics of robotics and coding.

WEATHER

April 18, 2026

Introduces the science of meteorology through experiments and engaging activities. Learn about weather patterns, extreme conditions, and climate while exploring how these forces shape our world.

WINTER WONDERLAND

January 17, 2026

Get immersed in the wonders of winter through hands-on activities inspired by snowy landscapes and arctic animals. Explore science and nature while engaging in creative play that celebrates the season's charm.

NATURE

May 16, 2026

Discover the beauty of the outdoors through hands-on exploration of plants, animals, and ecosystems. Through guided activities, develop environmental awareness and a deeper connection to the natural world.

Educator Training Sessions

Putnam Museum and Science Center

Saturday, April 11, 2026

9:00 AM–12:00 PM & 1:00–4:00 PM

FREE, Space is Limited.



The Putnam is excited to offer hands-on professional learning opportunities designed specifically for early childhood educators. These sessions are led by the Iowa Regents' Center for Early Developmental Education, housed at the UNI College of Education—a leader in innovative, research-based curriculum for children from birth through age 8.

Unit Block Structures: Engineers in the Making

Discover how block play builds the foundation for early STEM learning. In this interactive workshop, participants explore balance, force, and motion through collaborative design challenges—mirroring the way young learners naturally experiment in the block center. Classroom photos and videos will demonstrate how block play strengthens spatial reasoning and engineering thinking in PK–2nd grade.

Engineering the Direction of Objects with Ramps & Pathways

Discover how block play builds the foundation for early STEM learning. In this interactive workshop, participants explore balance, force, and motion through collaborative design challenges—mirroring the way young learners naturally experiment in the block center. Classroom photos and videos will demonstrate how block play strengthens spatial reasoning and engineering thinking in PK–2nd grade.

Session Details:

- Designed for Preschool & Kindergarten teachers, as well as interested 1st–2nd grade educators
- Each workshop is 3 hours
- Space is limited to 15 participants per session
- All participants will receive a certificate of completion and a small stipend (gift card)

REGISTER HERE:

Unit Block Structures: Engineers in the Making:

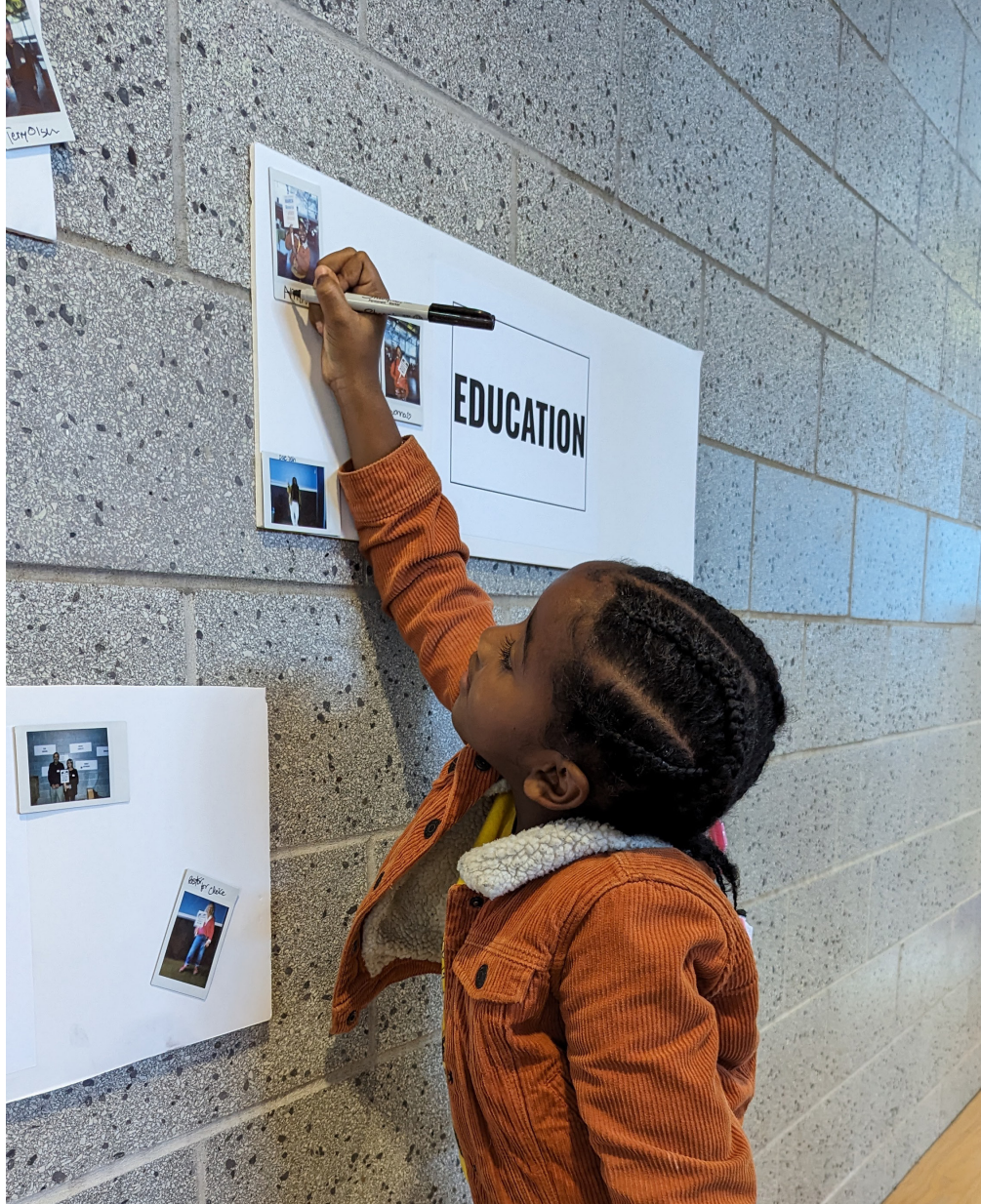
Saturday, April 11
9 AM - 12 PM



Engineering the Direction of Objects with Ramps & Pathways:

Saturday, April 11
1 PM - 4 PM





PUTNAM!

MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

1717 W. 12th Street | Davenport, IA 52804
563.324.1933 | www.putnam.org

Share your memories with us: @PutnamMuseum or #PutnamMuseum

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Prichard Family Charitable Trust

