

7 Ways to Use Wonderosity™ Kits for Family Engagement

Wonderosity Kits are filled with enriching programming that can easily be adapted for all ages. Try these ideas from the kits for engaging children and their families with fun, educational activities.

1. Host a Storytelling Event

Story Makers Kit

Using the activity in the Story Makers Kids' Activity Book, have children and their family members make shadow puppets and create a legend or tall tale together. (Families could also make different kinds of puppets, such as sock puppets.) Use the Real or Not Real? Legends and Tall Tales program plan to explain what legends and tall tales are, give families time to work on their projects, and then invite each family to put on a puppet show for the group.

2. Hold an Electronic Accessories Workshop

Avatar Academy Kit

Begin the workshop by putting out a variety of conductive and nonconductive materials, batteries, and light bulbs. Using the Electronic Accessory Design program plan, explain how a circuit works and then encourage family members to work together and test which materials are conductive. Then ask them to challenge themselves by making their circuits more and more complicated. Finish the workshop by doing the accessories-making activity from the program plan.

3. Run a Production Studio Camp

Production Studio Kit

Offer a camp for families to learn about the process of making videos. Use the program plans in the Production Studio Kit, and have families work in small groups. For the last session, have family members choose roles (acting, directing, and filming) and film their videos. Using the Safe Video Habits activity from the Production Studio Kids' Activity Book, talk about online video site safety. Suggest that families decide together whether to upload and post their videos.

4. Hold a Spy Science Night

Spy School Kit

Using activities from the Spy School Kids' Activity Book and the Spy Gadgets and Tools program plan, set up stations where families can work together. Activities might include making different spy tools like invisible ink, fingerprint powder, sheets for making and identifying prints, telescopes, periscopes, and a gadget or tool they design themselves and create from repurposed materials. Assign staff and volunteers to each station or put out fact sheets about the science behind what they are doing. To help caregivers talk to their kids about what they're doing, provide prompt cards at the beginning with questions like "Why do you think this worked or didn't work? How might we modify this to do something different? Where could we look for more information about this?"



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5. Hold a Cryptid Hunt

Story Makers Kit

Using the Mysterious Animal Detective activity from the Story Makers Kids' Activity Book, design a story walk about a cryptid like Nessie, Chupacabra, or Sasquatch, and offer a variety of times when families can go on cryptid hunts. Begin each hunt by talking about what a cryptid is and which one participants will be looking for. Give them backpacks with books or devices with internet access for them to use on the trail to identify footprints and scat they might find, food the cryptid might eat, and pieces of fur, scales, or feathers it might have dropped. Leave clues along the trail and have families look for them and take pictures of what they find.

6. Host a Pirate Party

Story Makers Kit

Host a family pirate party on Talk Like a Pirate Day on September 19. Set up activities from the Story Makers Kids' Activity Book, and invite families to design a temporary tattoo or a flag for their family ship. You can also have them work together to create a boat and compete to see whose is the most stable and can carry the most weight (see the activity in the Nautical Folklore and Superstition program plan). Have a station with common nautical terms displayed, and encourage participants to write a family sea shanty, setting it to a children's song melody with a chorus like "Bingo," "Old MacDonald's Farm," or "The Hokey Pokey." Ask them if they want to perform it for a video or audio recording to share on social media.

7. Run a Family Training Program

Avatar Academy Kit

To encourage group physical activity, run a family training program from Avatar Academy: Train Like an Avatar. Set up an obstacle course and have families go through it as a relay. Time them to see if they can beat their own times or let them race against other families. Offer a smoothie or other healthy snack-making station, and encourage families to work together to create unique recipes. Suggest families create their own obstacle courses or other active games that they can do together at home. Encourage them to take pictures of the activities and share them on social media, tagging your library.

