

KidSenses Children's InterACTIVE Museum Makes Learning Fun!

One of the true treasures of Rutherford County is KidSenses Children's InterACTIVE Museum. Since opening in October 2004, KidSenses has worked to improve the lives of children through innovative education. By providing learning opportunities in the form of exciting hands-on activities, KidSenses enhances science, literacy, and health education for children throughout Rutherford County and beyond. And, it's a whole lot of fun!

"What we are trying to do is to supplement what our schools are doing, with informal experiences that bring excitement to learning," according to Steve Saucier, KidSenses Executive Director. "The hands-on aspect is critical. Children want to do two basic things: they want to move, and they want to express themselves in some way. Children want to have experiences, they want things messy and chaotic, they want to participate, and when they've done these things, they want to share them with friends and family. The exhibits and attractions at KidSenses let children do all these things and learn while they're doing them."

Two of KidSenses top attractions are the Explorer Dome and the Virtual Reality exhibit. The Explorer Dome is a digital, high-definition planetarium that travels to regional schools and libraries. It takes children on a journey through space, allowing them to travel around the solar system and beyond, visit the various planets, and return to Earth. "With the capabilities of the Explorer Dome, we're able to teach astronomy, earth science, geography, and more in an exciting and unique way at area schools," says Saucier. "It is the only learning tool of its kind in North Carolina which can travel to different locations."

The Virtual Reality exhibit incorporates a high-definition screen with a movable platform, allowing for numerous experiences that put children in the middle of the action. In early 2010, the exhibit will feature a Winter Olympic theme, simulating events such as bobsled and luge runs, downhill skiing, and a host of winter sports. "With these exhibits, we want to bring the world, and even points beyond, to children who might not have opportunities to travel and experience these things first-hand," says Saucier.

Additional offerings from KidSenses include outreach programs, field trips, birthday parties, along with summer camps and other extended learning experiences. Internship opportunities for teens are also available. To learn more about KidSenses, visit www.KidSenses.com, call the museum at 828-286-2120, and review their advertisement on page 32.