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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ring in the new school year this August with Children’s Museum of Atlanta**

*Youngsters invited to celebrate best friends, furry companions, TinyCon™ and more!*

**ATLANTA** **(July XX, 2019) –** Summer vacation may be nearing its end, but the fun is just getting started at **Children’s Museum of Atlanta**! Families can visit the Museum and honor human and furry friends alike this August with games and activities that encourage teamwork, togetherness and even the opportunity to adopt a canine companion. The celebratory energy will continue throughout the month with music, crafts and costumes during the festival of Eid al Adha and the Museum’s third annual TinyCon™. Future doctors, veterinarians and caretakers also still have the chance to participate in the highly-interactive exhibit based on Disney Junior’s Peabody Award-winning television series, “Doc McStuffins” all month long!

**August Special Programming:**

**National Friendship Day**

 *Saturday & Sunday, August 3-4*

The beginning of the school year brings opportunities for kiddos to make new friends! In honor of National Friendship Day, Children’s Museum of Atlanta will offer buddy-themed programming throughout the first weekend of August. Little ones will join the Imaginators on the Museum stage for teamwork games and then skip to the Art Studio to make friendship bracelets. In addition, young learners can make a new pal in the Build It Lab while crafting a tic-tac-toe set. Children will also learn how animals rely on their other animal companions for survival with Professor Labcoat.

**Eid Al Adha** *Sunday, August 18*Families are invited to celebrate the festival of Eid al Adha with the Ismaili Muslim Community to commemorate the Festival of the Sacrifice. Children will enjoy music, crafts and gorgeous costume pieces from Tajikistan, India, Egypt and Morocco as part of the celebration. In addition, kids can get henna art designs painted on their hands and even make and taste a traditional holiday food during Children’s Museum’s special edition of “Eat a Georgia Rainbow.”

**Family Free Day***Wednesday, August 21 (Session 1: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Session 2: 1-3:30 p.m.; Session 3: 4-6:30 p.m.)*Families are invited to enjoy the Museum free of charge once every quarter. Throughout the day, kids will have the opportunity to participate in arts and music-themed activities while celebrating creativity and innovation. Made possible by the support of the PNC Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation and CareSource, the three sessions will also offer the chance for kids to explore the Museum’s six permanent, interactive exhibits as well as *Doc McStuffins: The Exhibit.* Free tickets are limited and advance reservation is required. For more information, please visit [childrensmuseumatlanta.org/familyfreeday](https://childrensmuseumatlanta.org/family-free-day/).

**National Dog Day**

*Sunday, August 25*From 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., families will have the chance to bring a furry friend home! Non-profit organizations Furkids will be onsite with adorable adoptable dogs in honor of National Dog Day. Canine Companions will also add to the festivities by sharing a dog’s journey from puppy-hood to hero. In addition, little ones are invited to head to the Art Studio and create prints of the constellation “Canis Major,” which includes “Sirius” – also known as the “Dog Star!”
 **TinyCon™***Saturday, August 31 & Sunday, September 1*Tiny adventurers are invited to dress up and come to Children’s Museum of Atlanta for the third annual TinyCon™. This two-day celebration will include fantasy, science fiction, comics and gaming tailored to little ones. Kiddos will have the opportunity to learn in the Archaeology Lab at the Science Bar, build lightsabers and learn how to harness the “force” with Jedi Training and take part in a TinyCon™ costume parade around the Museum. In addition, young artists can learn how to use pixels to create their very own masterpieces in the Art Studio and young chefs can blend their own smoothies in Princess Zelda’s ‘Breath of the Wild’ cooking class. The Museum will also offer a Pokémon Scavenger hunt, temporary tattoo station and a custom fantasy and superhero mask making table all day long.

**Feature Exhibit: *Doc McStuffins: The Exhibit****January 8-September 8, 2019*

Young learners are invited to experience the first-ever museum exhibit based on Disney Junior’s Peabody Award-winning television series, “Doc McStuffins.”The highly interactive English and Spanish bilingual experiencetransports kids and families from Doc’s backyard clinic to the Toy Hospital. There, families are invited to perform check-ups and diagnose toy patients while learning about healthy habits, compassion and nurturing care.
**Building Blocks: Early Learning Programs**

 **Tiny Club Monday**

*10:30 a.m.*Kiddos can choose between TiNY Science Club and TiNY Artist Club to enjoy a 30-minute class designed especially for kids ages 2-5 and their caregivers. Families can also check out TiNY Builder Club, a drop-in class held from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Each program offers hands-on activities, professional instruction and the chance to learn something new!

**Messy Thursdays**

 *10:30 a.m.*

Little visitors and guardians are invited to get messy! Messy Thursdays offer slime, finger painting and more every Thursday of the month! Let the Children’s Museum of Atlanta clean up the mess while the little ones have a blast with new activities and endless opportunities to try each and every week.

**Friday Jam Session**

*10:30 a.m.*

Rock and roll into the weekend with this high energy, music-filled class guaranteed to shake out the wiggles and foster a love of music. Each week’s program offers new songs, instrument play, circle time activities and, of course, dance breaks.

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**About Children’s Museum of Atlanta:**

Children’s Museum of Atlanta is the only educational venue of its kind in Atlanta, presenting educational programs and exhibits designed for young children ages 0-9. The Museum’s mission is to spark imagination and inspire discovery and learning for all children through the power of play. With six permanent learning zones consisting of bright, creative and hands-on exhibits, the Museum supports inventive play-based exploration and experiential learning focused on the whole child. Core competencies for literacy, math and science are promoted throughout all exhibits and programming in alignment with the state and national Core Performance Standards. The Children’s Museum of Atlanta also offers parties, memberships, field trips, summer camp and private events. For more information or to support Children's Museum of Atlanta, visit childrensmuseumatlanta.org or call 404.659.KIDS [5437].

**Museum Admission**: Plan ahead and save! Families can purchase timed tickets online in advance to save money and guarantee entry to the Museum. Babies under 12 months and members are admitted for free. All daily programs are included in price of admission. Group rates and military discounts are available. For more information regarding ticket and membership options, visit childrensmuseumatlanta.org.

**Museum Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Closed on Wednesdays. Please check the Museum website to confirm hours of operation.