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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WRIGHT GROUP/McGRAW-HILL'S "DOORS TO DISCOVERY" FOUND TO HAVE POTENTIALLY POSITIVE EFFECTS ON PRESCHOOLERS' EARLY LANGUAGE AND PRINT KNOWLEDGE

CHICAGO (June 19, 2009) – Wright Group/McGraw-Hill's *Doors to Discovery*TM Pre-Kindergarten curriculum was found to have potentially positive effects on oral language and print knowledge according to the What Works Clearinghouse Early Childhood Intervention report, released June 9, 2009.

Doors to Discovery is designed to build a foundation of oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, and concepts of print and a love of books. Through engaging storybooks, enchanting literacy learning environments, and authentic discoveries, preschoolers are given the "keys" that will open the door to lifelong literacy. Teacher support throughout the "Discovery Guide" fosters built-in professional development and at-your-fingertips resources. Family literacy activities also foster partnerships between the school, home, family, and teacher.

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) was established in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to provide a central source of scientific evidence of what works in education. WWC evaluates existing research on the effectiveness of a program and comments on the validity of the studies in showing the program success in improving student achievement. It does not review programs.

In the *Doors to Discovery* Early Childhood Intervention report, two studies were reviewed. A 2008 randomized controlled trial from the Preschool Curriculum Evaluation Research Consortium met WWC standards fully. One study (Christie, Roskos, Vukelich, & Han, 2003) is a randomized controlled trial that meets WWC evidence standards with reservations. Several more studies were inconclusive due to organization of the research.

Based on these two studies, the WWC considers the extent of evidence for *Doors to Discovery*TM to be medium to large for oral language and print knowledge. It found some evidence of positive effects in phonological processing.

"Knowing what works in the classroom is extremely important for today's educators, and we continue to strive to find ways to study the effects of our programs in the classroom in ways the WWC finds scientific," said Jeff Livingston, senior vice president of marketing for Wright Group/McGraw-Hill. "Using research-proven programs in Pre-Kindergarten is probably the single best way to close the achievement gap for so many of our children, making sure they enter Kindergarten with the needed readiness skills."

About Wright Group/McGraw-Hill

Wright Group/McGraw-Hill publishes innovative core and supplemental literacy and mathematics programs for differentiated instruction and teacher training in Grades Pre-K–8. The research-based approach, anchored in real-world applications, is based on the assessed needs of students, combining developmentally appropriate materials with explicit outcomes.

Wright Group is part of McGraw-Hill Education, a leading global provider of print and digital instructional, assessment and reference solutions that empower professionals and students of all ages. McGraw-Hill Education has offices in 33 countries and publishes in more than 65 languages. For more information contact:

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