Children's Museum unveils new Early Learning Junction

POUGHKEEPSIE — On Friday, November 29, the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum will unveil its newest exhibition, Early Learning Junction. This new learning space is designed to encourage the development of critical school readiness skills in children ages 4 and younger.

Early Learning Junction invites young children to climb, crawl and scoot their way through the multi-level, interactive Train Station. Along the way, children will encounter several interactive exhibits — they can crank discs up a conveyor belt to a larger-than-life plinko board, explore textures and discover new hideaway spaces.

And while it may look like a mega-playscape, the Train Station is much more, with exhibits that promote skills such as sharing, communication, problem-solving and gross motor coordination, all developmental areas that are critical to school readiness. The exhibition also features an enormous custom-built train table.

Other exhibits in the Early Learning Junction include Hudson Hills, a series of vertical ball race tracks, a Discovery Table that features rotating hands-on activities, a reading nook and block-building area.

Early Learning Junction was developed by The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum to support its new School Readiness Initiative.

"Museums have an important role to play in promoting the development of skills that lead to success in school among young children living in our region," said Lara Litchfield-Kimber, MHCM Executive Director.

She continued: "Early experiences in life directly influence brain development and the establishment of neural connections, and interactive children's museums are ideally suited to provide the very experiences young children need to lay the foundations for language, reasoning, problem solving, social skills, behavior and emotional health."

The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is $7.50 per person. Children under 1 year are free. Visit www.mhcm.org or call 845-471-0589.

Cinnamon Tree hosts lunch feast

Parents and grandparents enjoyed coming to the Cinnamon Tree Children's Center for a Thanksgiving Feast during their children's lunch. Many good memories were made while eating, laughing and singing Thanksgiving songs.

- Courtesy photo

Workshop on special education set at Grinnell in Wappingers

Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls in cooperation with the Taconic Resources

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