

Families ring in 2019 early at Mid-Hudson Children's Museum New Year's At Noon

Geoffrey Wilson, Poughkeepsie Journal

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The Mid-Hudson Children's Museum's New Year's At Noon offered families an early celebration to ring in 2019. Geoffrey Wilson, Poughkeepsie Journal



(Photo: Geoffrey Wilson/Poughkeepsie Journal)

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Most celebrations on Dec. 31 conclude with one final countdown to ring in the new year.

At the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum on Monday, there were three, with the last coming as the clock struck 12... noon.

"Kids love counting down," said Lara Litchfield-Kimber, executive director of the City of Poughkeepsie museum, which hosted around 400 children and parents for its annual New Year's At Noon party. "We have three countdowns at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, with the last one being the balloon drop."

At noon, balloons set up on the ceilings of three separate rooms were released to the cheers of children and parents alike.

Mary Terry, of the Town of Poughkeepsie, said she took her children to the museum when they were young, and now she is happy to bring her granddaughter, 4-year-old Madelynn Terry, as well.



Mary Terry, of the Town of Poughkeepsie, and her granddaughter, Madelynn Terry, prepare for the balloon drop at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum New Year's Eve celebration in the City of Poughkeepsie on Dec. 31, 2018. (Photo: Geoffrey Wilson/Poughkeepsie Journal)

"There's so much more to the museum compared to when I first came here," Mary Terry said. "There are so many activities, learning opportunities, and it's so open and free."

The event featured a live DJ, dancing, crafts and other activities.

"Kids can make noisemakers and other crafts so they can celebrate at home at midnight — or before their bedtime," Litchfield-Kimber said, noting she often sees families who return each year to the annual event. "Even as the children get older, they still come back because it's become part of their New Year's plans."

Mary Terry said she became a member of the museum earlier in 2018, and Monday marked her first New Year's At Noon.

"I read about it in their newsletter and thought it was a great idea for the holidays," she said. "I think it's a really spectacular thing to see."

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