

Children's Museum becomes hunting ground

By CATHERINE KURTELAWICZ **Observer-Dispatch** *Posted Mar 22, 2008 @ 10:07 PM*

UTICA — Madison Hynes walked up the stairs at the Children's Museum Saturday morning to find a treasure trove — Easter eggs as far as the eye could see, or at least to the other side of the room.

With wide eyes and a smirk, the 3-year-old Whitesboro girl began tossing as many pastel-colored plastic eggs into her basket as she could before the swarms of other children participating in the museum's annual Easter egg hunt could come across her discovery.

"Come here, Mom," Madison said as she grabbed mother Tamara Hynes' hand to search for more eggs.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., children got to search for the plastic eggs on the second floor of the building.

Inside each egg was a surprise, such as candy or a small toy.

Children's Museum Executive Director Marlene Brown said Saturday's egg hunt had more children participate than in the past six years of the event.

Brown said the egg hunt is great for children because they love to investigate everything.

"You can bring your kids here to a place that is fun, safe and great for them to explore," she said.

Four-year-old Keeleigh Nutt of Ilion couldn't wait to start the egg hunt.

She could barely stand still while waiting in line to get into the museum.

Although she didn't have an exact plan, she thought she knew how many eggs she might find.

"I think I'm going to find eight," Keeleigh said.

Madison, whose 2-month-old brother Tommy waited in a stroller, ended up filling her basket with more than 20 eggs.

"Can we give one to Tommy?" she asked her mom as she made her way back down the stairs.