

Christmas festivities get started

From the first time on a train, to magic shows, to Santa Claus ...

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Children choose their favorite crayons as they color holiday-themed pictures at Holiday On Main Street at the Children's Museum, 311 Main Street in Utica, NY

UTICA — Santa Claus, holiday music, games and train rides were all part of Saturday's family-oriented festivities in the Main Street area. Hundreds of people went back and forth between Union Station and the Children's Museum for events including:

- Christmas on Main Street — a train ride to Holland Patent, wagon rides, events at Union Station.
- Holiday on Main Street — various events such as crafts and skits at the Children's Museum.

'Old enough to appreciate it' - Jude Feingold of Plattsburgh brought his 2-year-old daughter Sabrina to the Children's Museum for the day. As museum staff was setting up the stage for a show, Sabrina Feingold was eagerly banging on a wooden xylophone.

"I used to come here when I was younger, and now that we have a child, I wanted to bring her," said Jude Feingold, who was visiting family in Utica for the holidays. "She's old enough to appreciate it now, so I thought it would be a good thing to take her to."

The museum offered a wide variety of events for the day, including a chance to sit on Santa's lap, balloon making, face painting, a Lego contest, live holiday musical groups.

Kristin Hattiangadi and her 4-year-old daughter Olivia, from Manhattan, stood in front of the fun house mirror on the first floor of the museum.

"Look at how tiny I am!" Olivia Hattiangadi said with a giddy laugh.

The mother and daughter were planning to head to Union Station after the museum to check out the other holiday activities.