

# Kid's KOrner

## Explore A World Of Fun, Learning At Hands-On House

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LANDISVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Imagine a real big playroom.

*Real big.*

Like the size of a whole house, with nine rooms filled with more things to do than you've ever seen.

Then imagine going to your friend's birthday party in this real big room.

Travis Chaby, who lives in Brownstown, did. Twelve of his friends surprised him when they came to his fifth birthday party at the Hands-On House.

At the Hands-On House (which runs year-round), kids 3-10 years old get a chance to learn by doing. Kids can make some of the neatest music. Or they can practice on a big construction set. They can look through the kaleidoscope in the Eye Spy room, play doctor with some real lifelike equipment in What's Up Doc? or shop for food like mom and dad do in the Corner Grocery.

They can visit the Not Just Trees room (go on a forest treasure hunt and listen to a talking tree). They can paint faces at the Face to Face room. Or kids can visit the Pack Rat Habitat and pack their bags full of neat stuff to build a project at home.

For Travis and his 12 friends at the party, cake was served, along with apple juice and "Pack Rat" party favors.

The same day, Christopher Colosi, Lititz, invited eight other friends over for his fifth birthday.

Saturday is the busiest day for the Hands-On House, which is open everyday but Monday. The house was built in 1900 by Peter and Priscilla Landis on 30 acres of farmland. It is a six-bed, one bathroom house, renovated in June 1987 by the Hands-On Children's Museum of Lancaster at a cost of \$90,467.

"When it's raining, a lot of people visit," said Elaine Dow, staff museum aid.



Laren Chaby, 3, practices in the Soundworks room.



Cara Lyons, 3, New Holland helps the leaves fall at the entrance to Not Just Trees.



Cole Bogar, 7, right, and brother Corey, 2, look through the kaleidoscope in the Eye Spy room.



Kyle Hampson, 3, Brownstown wonders which car will be first at the finish line at the track.



Erika Hostetter, 6, Morgantown hoists up blocks at the Construction Area in Hands-On House.



Travis Chaby celebrated his fifth birthday with lots of activities at the Hands-On House.

Many day care facilities bring kids in for field trips, she said. Visitors come from places such as New York, Reading, and surrounding areas.

Recently, the Wickersham Elementary School visited.

"Here, the kids learn while they play," said Dow. "They learn about ecology and recycling and other things. Also, special teaching projects are held, which cover crafts and games."

Every month, the house offers a variety of activities for kids ages 2 and older. Each class explores a topic with lots of hands-on activities.

There are 25-30 staff, of which two are full-time and six work part-time.

Cost for admission to the house is \$3 for children 2 years of older and adults. Kids under 2 are free. Special yearly membership rates are available.

The hours for the house are Monday, closed; Tuesday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

(Photos by Andy Andrews.)