

Aviation exhibition opens at Sciencenter

By Michelle King

mkingj@ithacajournal.com
Journal Staff

ITHACA — Curious young minds got a taste of the physics behind aviation through the movement of paper rockets and airplanes at the "Take Flight," exhibition Sunday at the Sciencenter.

"There's a lot for them to do," said Mike Rosenberg of Owego, who came to the exhibit with his wife, Rose, and two sons, Brenton, 4, and Alec, 14 months.

"It's very well set up and geared well for kids," Rosenberg added as son Brenton enthusiastically launched a paper rocket that whizzed through the air toward a set of hoops that hung

from the museum's ceiling.

The Rosenbergs participated in the rocket launcher activity as part of the aviation exhibit that was created by the Science Works Hands-On Museum in Ashland, Ore. In exchange, Science Works also will "swap" an exhibition developed by the Sciencenter for its museum, said Hester Vermaak, public relations manager for

the museum.

The exhibit opened Jan. 27 and runs through April 29. It is sponsored by the East Hill Flying Club, a nonprofit organization based at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport that specializes in flight instruction.

One of the exhibit's goals is to foster creativity through hands-on learning, Vermaak said.

"The creative part is they get to make something," she said. "It encourages them (the children) to try new things because you don't necessarily get the same results."

In addition to the rocket launcher, other activities included:

See SCIENCENTER Page 3B



Photos by

BILL WARREN / Journal Staff

TOP: Jack Honig, 9, releases a parachute from the second floor of the Sciencenter Saturday, the opening day for the center's new hands-on exhibition, "Take Flight." RIGHT: Syvonne Forgette, 2, looks up as her rotating flyer (not seen in photo) is lifted up from a blower unit at the Hover Port, one of several hands-on activities that are part of the new Sciencenter exhibition called "Take Flight."

SCIENCENTER

CONTINUED FROM 1B

► **A Hover Port:** Made to simulate a helicopter, this activity involved placing a rotating paper propeller over a blower unit that pushes the propeller in a spinning, upward motion;

► **Paper Airplane Launchers:** To participate, visitors first constructed a paper airplane from an instructional booklet or from one of their own designs. The airplane is then moved by rotating wheels that can be angled in various directions to see different effects on the same flying design;

► **"Action & Reaction,"** which allows visitors to drop a ball down a tube and observe the action of the tube as the ball exits one direction and the tube moves in the other, and;

► **"Go with the Flow,"** which illustrates the Coanda effect us-



ing a water stream passing over different surfaces.

For more information about the "Take Flight" exhibit, or about an upcoming series of pre-

sentations and activities about aviation from members of the East Hill Flying Club, log onto the museum's Web site at www.sciencenter.org.