



Investigation Stations

a hands on discovery program for three, four and five year olds.

Investigation Stations are located at the Olean Public Library and OCDC. Each location has spaces or stations where children and adults can participate in free play and/or directed activities. The directed activities accompanying the stations are designed to help three, four and five year olds develop the skills needed to have a successful experience when they enter kindergarten and encourage parents to stimulate all of their children’s smart parts. Investigation Station activities are part of the programming at both the Olean Public Library and OCDC. Books, materials and activities that expand on the experiences and connections presented at the stations are available for families to use at home. Parents can actively participate with their children both at the Investigation Stations and at home. Workshops and family group activities are also offered.

The Investigation Stations include the following spaces:



Drama Boulevard features a stage, puppets, an armoire, mirror, dress ups, and seasonal clothing (hats, mittens, scarves, etc) and sports equipment.

Smart Parts:



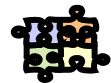
Pretend Parkway is the home of a kitchen center with food, pots and pans and utensils; and dolls, clothing and accessories.

Smart Parts



Construction Junction has a large variety of building materials including Legos, gears, nuts and bolts, tools and toolbox, and puzzles.

Smart Parts:



Quiet Cove is a “hiding spot” located under the stage which has soft cushions and mats. This area often houses favorite story books and dolls and stuffed animals along with their human companions.

Smart Parts:



Nature Nook is located next to Drama Boulevard and Quiet Cove. It houses a small tent and other outdoor items. It serves as both a secondary quiet place and nature area.

Smart Parts:



Word Terrace is the home of the books and more traditional reading and writing activities. This features a flannel board, magnetic board, creative writing center, take home activities cards, book displays and the parent’s center.

Smart parts



Melody Lane is a movement and listening space with instruments, cassette/CD player with and without headphones; accessories like ribbons and scarves, and access to poems, finger plays, stories etc. in both print and recorded format., etc.

Smart Parts:





Science Square includes various magnifying tools, measurement tools, sorting and classifying materials, sand/water table; indoor gardening equipment; and tactile box.

Smart Parts:



Creative Corner is where hands get dirty. The work area is supplied with a variety of art supplies (clay, crayons, markers, chalk, paper, stickers, glue sticks, scissors, etc.) to be used independently with directions, and



suggestions and samples of coloring and craft activities related to the current theme.

The Investigation Stations Gallery offers participants space to display their creations if they wish.

Smart Parts:



Investigation Stations at the Olean Public Library are open for use by parents and children during all regular library hours. Group programming for the Investigation Stations is scheduled biweekly (see schedule). Programming and Investigation Station Activities are also available at OCDC as part of the 3, 4 and 5 year old curriculum.



To make the most effective use of the stations please follow these guidelines:

- ◆ Please participate *with* your child. The activities are designed to be interactive.
- ◆ The Investigations Stations are designed for preschool children ages three through five. While some activities can be enjoyed by children both younger and older, please supervise them carefully so that toys and materials are not used inappropriately.
- ◆ The noisiest and messiest activities are located in the story room which is open for your use, but children must be supervised by an adult.
- ◆ Your children are sharing the library with many other library users, some of whom need and expect a quiet library. Please be aware that the level of noise which parents are accustomed to may not be acceptable to others. Quiet voices are encouraged.
- ◆ We have seen children hurt themselves and others when they run, climb, swing or jump on furniture and shelving. Please prevent injuries by watching your children at all times. Remind children they must use the stairs to get on and off the stage.



Olean Public Library

134 North Second Street • Olean, NY 14760 • (716) 372-0200
www.oleanlibrary.org

The mission of the Olean Public Library is to support the education, information and leisure needs of every individual in the community and in so doing improve the community's quality of life.

Investigation Stations is a program of the Olean Public Library in partnership with Olean Child Day Care Center and is funded in part by a Parent and Child Library Service grant New York State Education Department, Division of Library Development.