

Gigi's Playhouse
Down Syndrome Awareness Centers
www.gigisplayhouse.com

GIGI'S NEWS

Serving two locations

Loving a child with Down syndrome is contagious... Help us spread the love!!

Hoffman Estates
 1069 W Golf Rd • Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
 847-885-PLAY • www.gigisplayhouse.com

Plainfield
 10052 S. Bode Rd, Unit D • Plainfield, IL 60585
 630-778-PLAY • www.gigisplayhousetoo.com

October 2006

GiGi Fest 2006!!

(our 3 year Anniversary Bash)

Please come out and bring your family and friends to this incredible party!! We have people coming in from across the country to celebrate with us so lets show them how strong our Down syndrome community really is! We have a band, petting zoo, pony rides, food and lots of fun!! As you know we always invite the community in to party with us. Let's show them how it's done!!



Check out my trophy!!

Barrington Area Soccer Association (BASA) puts on an awesome soccer clinic for kids with special needs, and they love the Playhouse gang! It was so great to see their volunteer from FCX/FC Barrington teams. These are all high school kids who come out on their own time to teach the fundamentals of soccer while having a great time! Each child had a buddy and the interaction between them all was amazing! Some BASA coaches were there and were very impressed with our young players. It was great for them to see the potential in our kids.



It was a great time and ended in an awards ceremony! All the kids got trophies including the siblings that participated.

Thank you again to BASA for inviting the Playhouse to participate in this great program and thank you to the families for not letting the rain get you down! We can't wait until next year!!

OUR MISSION: to increase awareness of Down syndrome by providing programming, support, and education.

GiGi's Playhouse Chicago

is in the works! Justice Anne Burke (founder of the Special Olympics) is spearheading this project along with Coleen Doherty, Misericordia and an incredible advisory board! If you would like to be involved in this ground breaking project please call the Playhouse. 847-885-PLAY This is an incredible opportunity and we are so grateful to everyone involved in making it happen!

On the Road again!

Allstate chose GiGi's Playhouse to kick off their 2006 "Giving Campaign" (matching program) Nancy Gianni gave Down syndrome awareness presentations to both their South Barrington location and their Northbrook location everyday this week! "It has been crazy but the amazing questions they ask and the looks on their faces when they watch our video make it all worth it!" In fact, because of our presence we are also the recipients of 4 of their division raffles! That is on top of being added to their giving campaign (matching program) Thanks Allstate for giving us the opportunity to raise Down syndrome awareness and some funds too! A big thank you to Inez Hefferan and her beautiful daughter Hannah (1 with DS) for setting this all up!!



October 8, 2006

DS Support Buddy walk

This is a very important event that we must support. Last year they had close to a thousand people and this year they want to double it! Jen Paganessi runs the event with DS Support of Plainfield. Last year they donated \$7,000.00 to each Playhouse from their proceeds of the event! They also donated to all of the local support groups and offered some great programs at GiGi's Playhouse Too. We love you Jen!!



HOFFMAN ESTATES LOCATION

Polish Group

Our polish group meets once a month so remember to rsvp to Christina if you are interested in attending 847-962-4820.

Leaps And Bounds

Starting in October 21st, GiGi's is offering a new activity called LEAPS AND BOUNDS!!!! This activity is for the star in your family, Nancy Nelson is a licensed dance instructor and will be running this fun filled hour of different dances and steps...it is for both boys and girls 4yrs of age and older. For more information or to rsvp please contact Julie Stout at 630-724-9918. All dances learned will be used in future "Playhouse performances" in the community!!!

Leaps and Bounds, October 21st, 2006, 10am -11am
RSVP to Julie Stout at 630-724-9918



2 and under group

The 2 and under group was awesome! It was so cool to see so many of the infants sitting up on their own this month!!! The parents do a great job helping each other and cheering everybody on! See ya next month!!

Hop, skip and jumpers

Jaime came all the way from Pontiac Illinois for this months Hop, skip and jumpers (3-5 year olds) Check out the book bag he made! He even wrote his name on it!

Both of these groups are on the second Saturday of the month. The "2 and under" group is 10-11:30 and the "Hop, skip and jumpers" are 12-1:30. **Mark your calendars!**

Calling all Spanish families with kids getting ready for pre school!!! October 10, 2006.

CFC #6 Parent Information Session on Transition for Hispanic Families. Presented in English with Spanish translation. It will run 7-9pm. Call Gigi at 847/ 489-2579.



Friday Friends

We had our first annual softball game with the parents in August. Brian's mom Nancy Gemelli and Christine's mom Diane Maxwell were true troopers...except Diane wanted to play with her umbrella. Everyone got a hit. Team captains were Molly's dad Ken Veach and Christine's dad Joe Maxwell. Roberta promises to work on her sportsmanship by next year. We ended the evening with a ice cream social and giving the parents our honorary Friday Friends T-shirts. Everyone cannot wait till next year!!!

And remember our Halloween party this month so get your costumes ready...hope to see everyone there. Remember you must rsvp for FF events.

Love, The Friday Friends gang



We love our volunteers!!

Open play!

Every Thursday from 12:30 – 2:00 Come play with us!! We have pizza, games, songs, volunteers to help with the kids and lots of networking going on!!!

From Down Under

Shirley and Tamara flew in from "Down under" in Australia! They made sure to fit GiGi's Playhouse in as one of their stops in the states!!! These are 2 amazing women!!



HOFFMAN ESTATES LOCATION

October 2006



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1 GIGI Fest 12-3pm (Hoffman Estates location) | 2 Literacy program 10:30 - 5:30 | 3 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 3:30 - 6:30 | 4 Literacy Program 10:00 - 12:00 | 5 Open Play 12:30 - 2:00 Everyone welcome! | 6 Reserved 2-4 | 7 Calendar pick up day |
| 8 Hispanic Open Play Group 11:00 - 1:00 Buddy Walk Walker Park, Burr Ridge, IL 1-5pm | 9 Literacy program 10:30 - 5:30 | 10 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 3:30 - 6:30 CFC #6 Parent Information Session 7-9 p m | 11 Literacy Program 10:00 - 12:00 | 12 Open Play 12:30 - 2:00 Everyone welcome! | 13 Reserved 2-4 | 14 2 AND UNDER GROUP 10:00 - 12:00 HOP, SKIP & JUMPERS 12:00 - 1:30 |
| 15 PRIVATE PARTY 2:00 - 4:00 | 16 Literacy program 10:30 - 5:30 | 17 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 3:30 - 6:30 | 18 Literacy Program 10:00 - 12:00 | 19 Open Play 12:30 - 2:00 Everyone welcome! | 20 Reserved 2-4 | 21 LEAPS AND BOUNDS 10:00 - 11:00 |
| 22 Polish Play Group 1:00 - 3:00 NADS Luncheon and Fashion Show Oak Brook Marriot 11:00am-2:00pm | 23 Literacy program 10:30 - 5:30 | 24 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 3:30 - 6:30 | 25 Literacy Program 10:00 - 12:00 | 26 Open Play 12:30 - 2:00 Everyone welcome! | 27 Reserved 2-4 Friday Friends Halloween Bash!! 7:00 - 9:00 (18 and older) PARTY!!!! | 28 HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY!! ALL AGES 11:00 - 1:00 FOOD & FUN!!! |
| 29 | 30 Literacy program 10:30 - 5:30 | 31 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 | | | | |

Open Play-Every Thursday! Everyone is welcome! Stop by for pizza, pop and fun! We have volunteers to assist with the kids so the parents can hang out! It is awesome!!!!

The literacy program- GiGi's Playhouse provides FREE private tutoring to children with Down syndrome. Customized materials are provided for each individual student. The program also assists teachers and parents on how to tutor their children.

"Future" Friday Friends- Ages 6-8 only. Kids create lasting friendships through facilitated interactive play, while promoting good social skills. Each session ends with a pizza dinner in which social skills and table manners will be encouraged.

Friday Friends- Ages 18 and up only. Party with the gang! Equal numbers of peers with Down syndrome as without. Karaoke, dances, laser tag, bowling, prom, movie nights, friends and fun!

2 and under group- Families with kids 2 and under get together to play, and have fun while the parents network with each other!

Hop, Skip and Jumpers- For 3-5 year olds, this program will help promote friendships, good social skills and interactive play through fun creative activities!

Hispanic Group- Spanish speaking families gather for food, fun, friendship and education.

Polish Play Group- Polish speaking families gather for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

Fall Birthday Party- If you were born in September, October or November or just love a good party come on by! The birthday child gets a gift and everyone gets a goodie bag.

Reserved- Playhouse may be reserved for private play groups, parties or support groups

The Playhouse can be reserved for any Down syndrome related event. When it is available it may also be used by other groups with special needs.

Everyone is welcome at GiGi's Playhouse!

Due to the need for scheduling volunteers and acquiring supplies, reservations are greatly appreciated. (847) 885-PLAY, or you can e-mail nancy@gigisplayhouse.com. Feel free to leave a message!

Check the website for constant updates and to see pictures of the activities
www.gigisplayhouse.com!

GiGi's Playhouse is located 3 miles West of Woodfield Shopping Mall next to Schaumburg Toyota in the Brandess Center at
1069 W. Golf Road
Hoffman Estates IL, 60169
847-885-PLAY!

PLAINFIELD LOCATION



Ice Cream Social

The kids enjoyed an ice cream social in Aug.

Introducing GiGi's newest group GiGi's ...Watch out Walkers

We are pleased to announce the start of a new program for children who are walking. To qualify for this group your child must be walking for at least 4-6 months. The group will focus on post-walking skills such as balance beam, jumping, etc. There are still a few spots open in this group so call to reserve your spot now. If you have any questions or wish to reserve your spot please RSVP to Wendy Eurich at weurich@comcast.net or 630-423-4035



Harvest Gathering

Oct 29
5:30-7:30 pm
Please RSVP to
630-904-6960 by Oct 24th



We are looking for several volunteers to help run the preteen group at the playhouse. Are you looking to get involved, love working with young children, and have one night a month to give to our preteen's... then this is the group for you. If you have any questions regarding this group or just want to get involved call Wendy Eurich at 630-423-4035



This month Brandon celebrated his 5th birthday with his pre-school class, teacher, and therapist! What great awareness!



Every month families host private parties at the Playhouse to promote awareness and have fun! We have had birthday parties, school parties and more. We can create personalized birthday posters and custom Down syndrome awareness activity books with your child's picture in them for all the goody bags. Many families have said it has really helped their family and friends to see all of the positive sides of Down syndrome. (It also answers a lot of the questions that they are afraid to ask!)

Soaring to New Heights... Don't Be Surprised 1st Annual NADS Luncheon and Fashion Show!

Sunday, October 22nd, 2006
Oak Brook Marriot • 11:00am-2:00pm
\$50 per ticket or a table of 10 for \$450

This event will be a fundraiser to support the programs that NADS provides for children and adults with Down syndrome and their families. To reserve your seat, visit the NADS website at www.nads.org.

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month



4th Annual
DS Support

Oct 8, 2006
1-5 PM
Walker Park
425 South Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL

Walk for awareness and to raise funds for Down syndrome. For the latest information and to register visit www.dssupport.net or call (815) 439-8693

Registration: Individual \$20 • Team member \$5
Family of 4 \$40 • Includes free T-shirt

PLAINFIELD LOCATION



October 2006

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|--|-----------|--|--|
| 1 GiGi Fest 12-3pm (Hoffman Estates location) | 2 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 3 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 4 | 5 | 6 Private Play Group 12-2pm | 7 2 and Under 9:30-11:00am Tot time 11:00am-12:00pm |
| 8 Buddy Walk Walker Park, Burr Ridge, IL 1-5pm | 9 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 10 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 11 | 12 | 13 Private Play Group 12-2pm Teen-Tastic 7-9pm | 14 Daddy & Me 3-4:30pm |
| 15 | 16 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 17 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 18 | 19 | 20 Private Play Group 12-2pm | 21 B-day Party 10am-12pm (Please RSVP) Private Party 4-8pm |
| 22 NADS Luncheon and Fashion Show Oak Brook Marriot 11:00am-2:00pm | 23 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 24 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 25 | 26 | 27 Private Play Group 12-2pm | 28 GiGi's Walkers 9-10am GiGi's Crawlers 10-11am RSVP to 630-423-4035 |
| 29 Hispanic Group 11am-1pm Harvest Gathering 5:30-7:30 pm Please RSVP to 630-904-6960 by Oct 24th | 30 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | 31 Literacy Program 3-6 By appointment | **Literacy Program is a FREE Literacy Program for all ages (by appointment only, please call Melisa at 630-904-6960 or email cleary@wowway.com) <i>We are looking for tutors and students.</i> | | All Events are Free unless noted. *RSVP to 630-778-PLAY Bring a friend who doesn't have Down syndrome | |



GiGi's Crawlers: Prewalkers

GiGi's Walkers: Walkers

2 & Under: Ages birth-2

Tot Time: Ages 2-5

Teen-Tastic: Ages 13-17

Daddy & Me: Dads get out with the kids and get together with other dads. All ages.

Hispanic Playgroup: All ages

Monthly Birthday Party: All ages

10052 S. Bode Rd, Unit D
Plainfield, IL 60585
630-778-PLAY (7529) • fax (630) 778-7519
www.gigisplayhousetoo.com



Happy Down Syndrome Awareness Month

SAVE these DATES!

October 1
GiGi Fest (Hoffman Estates)

October 8
DS Support Buddy Walk

October 22
NADS 1st Annual Fashion Show

November 4
NADS Conference in Rosemont

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month

Here are some way you can join in the celebration



October 1

GiGi Fest

Hoffman Estates Location

October 13

UPS for Downs Dinner Dance

Cotillion in Palatine

October 8

DS Support Buddy Walk

Walker Park, Burr Ridge, IL

You can also purchase pins and car magnets at the walk to help promote awareness year round

October 15

DDC Awareness Walk

1-3 pm

Millennium Park in Lindenhurst

847-265-8482

October 22

NADS 1st Annual Fashion Show

Oak Brook Marriott

BACK TO SCHOOL!!

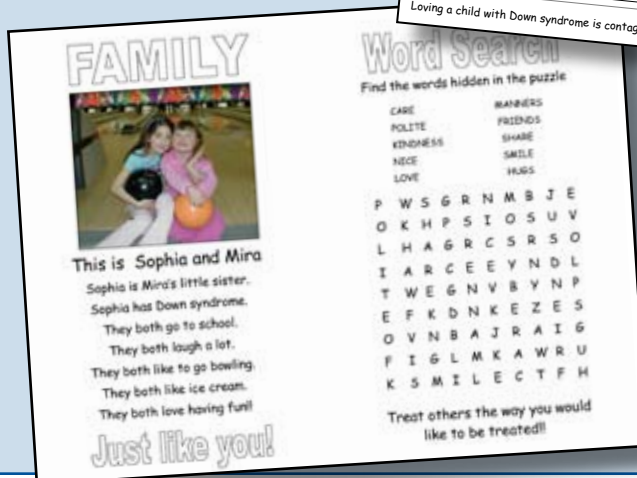
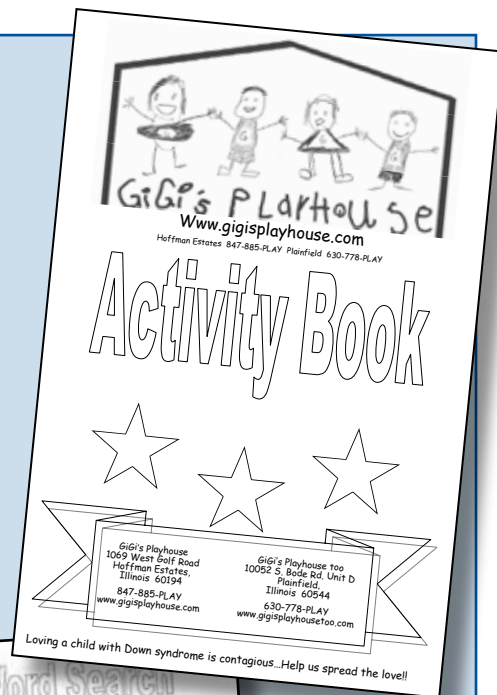
Is it time for "the Down syndrome talk"? Want to introduce your child to the class? Want to send something home to parents that is easy to read and fun for the kids?

The GiGi's Playhouse activity book is the perfect item and it can be customized with your child's picture and information!

The activity book is perfect for school aged children. It has a coloring page, a crossword puzzle, a word unscramble (kids with Down syndrome make great friends) a word search, a poster page (your child pic and info) and a "For the parents" DS information page. It is really cool and a great teaching tool!

We always have them on hand at the Playhouse or you could have them custom made with your child's picture and information. We make these free of charge at the Playhouse. (They can also be made into posters.)

We also would like these to be distributed to various pediatric offices and hospitals for use in their waiting rooms. Kids will have fun and learn a positive message! Please let us know if you would like to help us with that!!!



2007 Down Syndrome Awareness Calendar Order Form



This calendar was designed by GiGi's Playhouse to open your eyes to the tremendous potential in children with Down syndrome and what will happen if you BELIEVE! As you will see through the calendar pictures and the "mother's quotes" on every page, both the children and the families have hopes and dreams for a bright future just like anyone else. With the help of early intervention, therapies and a positive attitude they are able to achieve these dreams earlier than ever before! There is so much our kids can give back to this world if everybody would just **Believe....**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| # of calendars _____ @ \$10 each | _____ |
| Shipping | \$3.50 |
| Total: | _____ |

Send check (made out to GiGi's Playhouse) or money order to:
 GiGi's Playhouse
 1069 West Golf Road, Hoffman Estates IL 60169
 847-885-PLAY • www.gigisplayhouse.com

Credit Card # _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Calendars will be mailed out in early September. Be sure to check our web site for other products!



Down Syndrome Awareness Centers
 www.gigisplayhouse.com

Loving a child with Down syndrome is contagious... Help us spread the love!!



1069 W Golf Rd
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Don't
Miss
GiGi Fest 2006!!
October 1st
Hoffman Estates Location

Thank you!!!



Sue Ainley from Starbucks invited the kids from the Playhouse out to their Schaumburg location to share a story (and some treats too) to help celebrate Literacy day!! Starbucks has been a wonderful support to the Playhouse!

Don't forget to check out our Fall parties!!

All ages at Plainfield Harvest the 29th, Hoffman Estates the 28th and the adults on the 27th!! **Can you say PARTY?????**

