



Down Syndrome Awareness Centers

www.gigisplayhouse.com

Thank you ABC 7!!

Wow! What an incredible day! Karen Meyer and the gang from ABC 7 news came out to check out our literacy program!! The kids did a wonderful job of showing the success of the program and the incredible potential of children with Down syndrome!! They interviewed the kids, parents, teachers and volunteers. Boy, did they get an earful!!

The program offers individual and group tutoring, parent education and teacher consultation. We also provide custom books and flash cards for all the students. We currently have over 70 kids ages 2-26 being tutored at the Hoffman Estates location alone! This program reaches beyond the Playhouse walls by offering email/phone consultation Nationally and Internationally, assistance in the schools and the development of satellite locations.

The segment will air on ABC channel 7 in the next few weeks. Please check our website for the exact date and time.



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

Now with two locations!!!

Gigi's Playhouse August, 2006

Group tutoring??



"I can not believe how great the group tutoring turned out to be!" That was what one of the parents said after watching their child in the group reading session. "It is not just the reading, but the turn taking, the patience, and then cheering on their friends. It was so cool to see three year olds do all that!" Because of growing enrollment and the kids being out of school we have started group sessions to accommodate more kids. They are going great! If you are not already signed up call Shari at the Playhouse.

Can you feel the love?? As usual the kids took over and made this a great time for all!!



Private parties promote awareness and FUN!!!

Every month families host private parties at the Playhouse to promote awareness and have fun! We have had Christenings, birthday parties, school parties and more.

We create personalized birthday poster 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!)



Grace Sanchez celebrated her third birthday this month with all of her family, friends and a clown too!

Wyatt Nelson rang in his first year with family, friends and a train cake!

Bailey Birmingham and her family and friends celebrated her third birthday!

DOWN SYNDROME RESEARCH

If you missed out on the study when Dr. Daley came to the Playhouse to collect urine samples for her DS research you can catch her at Gigi's Playhouse Too (Plainfield) in August..

or Do you have an appointment at Children's Memorial Hospital in the next five months? If so, please consider taking part in the study there.

Please contact Gayle at gaylegio@yahoo.com for more information.

There is always something happening at GiGi's Playhouse!



Check out these future linebackers from the 2 and Under group! This group meets the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10-12. This is an awesome group that starts many great friendships! If you are interested in helping host the group please call the Playhouse.



A group of Elmhurst College graduate students who came to learn more about the parent's view of EI therapy, Down syndrome, and the Playhouse. They were a great group and were really interested in learning how to become great developmental therapists and early childhood teachers.

Friday Friends had great weather for their tailgate party! We started off with a water balloon toss which Brian and Kristen won, and then we had a great barbeque. Christine and Matt won the baggo tournament and the night ended with everyone participating in a big water balloon fight! We all had such a good time!!! We are hoping to see everyone in August where we are challenging any family member to a game of softball at an area park. We will need a head count so you must RSVP by August 20th. We hope to see everyone there!!!! Game on....



Sincerely,

Friday Friends.

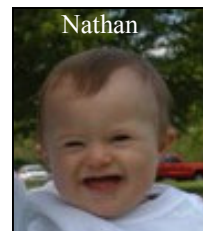
As you can see, the Friday Friends have decided to write their own newsletter coverage from now on!! Way to go guys!!

Thank you Com Ed!



An awesome group of volunteers from Commonwealth Edison came out and helped us clean up and organize the Playhouse!! They carried tons of stuff to storage and gave us back space we haven't seen in ages!! They even had time for some Down syndrome awareness and playing with the kids!

A big thank you to Nathan Kathera's uncle for helping to make this day possible!!



Nathan

INVOLVEMENT:

GiGi's Playhouse is going to the **Schaumburg Flyers game!** Sunday August 20 is "Kid's Day" and we will be marching around the outside of the field before the game. The children will also sing the seventh inning stretch! There will be face painting, balloons, and the kids get to run the bases when the game is over.

The tickets are \$7.50 per person. The game is @ 12:05. Families should get there around 11 am. The Flyers game is located at Alexian Field 1999 S. Springinsguth Road Schaumburg, IL 60193

Please call the Playhouse to reserve your tickets now!!

GiGi's Playhouse vs. GiGi's Playhouse Too (Plainfield) are having their **1st Annual Softball Game**. Come out to cheer for your GiGi's Playhouse. The game will take place on Saturday August 12, 2006 at Centennial Park 1776 W. Centennial Place Addison, IL. 60101 from 3:00 - 5:00. Following the game will be a pizza party at Home Run Inn Pizza also in Addison. Please call the Playhouse with any questions.

SCRAPBOOKING:

It's time to get a jump start and get your summer pictures in those scrapbooks! Scrapbooking will now be the 4th Monday of the month. Join Lora Bak for a relaxing evening of scrapbooking and socializing. Beginners welcome! RSVP's are necessary, so please call the Playhouse if you plan on coming and feel free to bring a friend!

"In My Own Words" is a new series of columns written by people with Down syndrome for our newsletter. This month's reporter, Christine Maxwell, joined the 5k training and was the 1st young adult with Down syndrome to run in our 5k. Way to go, Christine!



Christine with long time-boy friend, Matt Kaman at the Friday Friends tailgating party. (hence the chef hat!)

Now I'm Into It
By Christine Maxwell

Gayle asked me if I would like to do the 5K Run at Busse Woods for GiGi's Playhouse. I decided myself to do the Couch-to-5K training for 12 weeks. I warmed up, walked and jogged around the track at Harper College and stretched after I was done with coaches Gayle, MiMi and Charlie (a dog). That was a fun time. I always used to jog on the treadmill. It was harder on the track and road but I did it. I will do it again next year but faster. I want my friends to do it with me. Now I enter runs with sisters Suzy, Becky and my Dad Joe.

Calling all reporters with Down syndrome: Would you like to write a column in future newsletters? Do you have something to say about the activities you attend at GiGi's Playhouse, your school, your job, or something you are proud of? Contact Laura May or the Playhouse for more info.

GiGi's Playhouse! Due to the need for scheduling volunteers and acquiring supplies, *reservations are greatly* Everyone is welcome at *appreciated* for all playhouse activities. Call the Playhouse to make a reservation for all events at (847) 885-PLAY, e-mail gian-ni4567@aol.com or kylieannaunt@yahoo.com. Feel free to leave a message! Check the website for constant updates and to see pictures of the activities www.gigisplayhouse.com!



AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Literacy Program 9:00-6:30	2 Special Intentions Support Group 6:30-8:30	3 Open Play 12:30-2:00 	4	5
6	7 Literacy Program 10:00-4:00 	8 Literacy Program 9:00-6:30	9	10 Open Play 12:30-2:00 	11 	12 2 & Under Play Group 10:00-11:00 GiGi's Playhouse vs. Playhouse too Softball Game 3:00-5:00
13 Hispanic Open Play 11:00-1:00 	14 Literacy Program 10:00-4:00 	15 Literacy Program 9:00-6:30	16	17 Open Play 12:30-2:00 	18	19 Hop, Skip & Jumpers 10:00-11:30 UPS Kids Club 1:30-3:30
20 Schaumburg Flyers Game meet at Field @ 11:00 a.m. (RSVP at Playhouse) 	21 Literacy Program 10:00-4:00 	22 Literacy Program 9:00-6:30	23	24 Open Play 12:30-2:00 	25 Friday Friends Cookout 7:00-9:00 	26 UPS Lunch w/ Kids 11:00-1:00 
27 Polish Play Group 1:00-3:00 	28 Literacy Program 10:00-4:00  Scrapbooking (RSVP at Playhouse) 7:00 	29 Literacy Program 9:00-6:30	30 Support Group 6:30-8:30	31 Open Play 12:30-2:00 		

GiGi's Playhouse
 1069 West Golf Road
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60194
 Phone: 847-885-PLAY
 Fax: 847-885-4901
 E-mail: Gianni4567@aol.com
www.gigisplayhouse.com
 GiGi's Playhouse too
 Plainfield, IL 630-778-PLAY

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

Our Hoffman Estates location is 3 miles west of Woodfield in the Brandess Center next to Schaumburg Toyota.



Beautiful Melanie Guerrero slept her way through her first Hispanic play group! But her Mother and Father used the time to meet new friends and network with other families. WELCOME Melanie and Co.!

Playhouse News!

Barrington area Soccer Assoc. is putting on another clinic for GiGi's Playhouse, kids with special needs and their siblings!

Last year was awesome and this year we are adding a picnic in the park!



The high fives were flying and so was their self esteem!!

BELIEVE...

*Believe in the future,
 Believe in yourself,
 Believe in your child
 Believe in the power we
 all have to help people see
 the tremendous potential in
 individuals with Down
 syndrome.*

*Coming August 2006
 The 2007 GiGi's Playhouse
 Down Syndrome Awareness
 Calendar.*

*Anything can happen if
 you just **BELIEVE**....*

Hear Ye,
 Hear Ye!
 You are cordially
 invited to
 the ...



**GiGi's
 Playhouse 3rd
 Anniversary
 Bash!!**

Sunday,
 October 1st
 From 12-3 pm



Don't forget to check our website
 for the date and time of our literacy
 program segment on ABC 7 News!

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