



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

Now with two locations!

Happy Holidays!!

We wanted to send you a special gift and a bookmark was all that would fit in the newsletter!! I hope you know it was sent with love and appreciation for all you do for your loved one with Down syndrome.

What a wonderful year! We opened a second location, started the GiGi's Playhouse free literacy program, had record numbers at our 5k fun run, shot a PSA, (public service announcement) that is currently running on numerous channels, helped many new families with their DS diagnosis, produced numerous materials on the tremendous potential of kids with Down syndrome and the list goes on and on!!

As you know our main focus is on Down syndrome awareness and boy did we have a month of that!!! The kids stole the show at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange! Then we were off to perform at WACO (Woodfield Area Children's Organization), St. Anne's Women's Club and Friendship Village Retirement home. Everyone was so impressed with our performances and how well behaved the kids were. What did they expect?? (more stereotypes knocked down!)



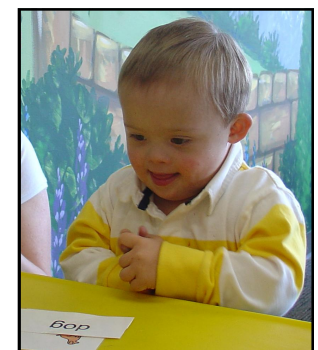
GiGi's Playhouse

January 2006

Literacy Program

Listen to what Sue Buckley and Gillian Bird from the Down Syndrome Educational Trust have to say about the philosophy we use at the GiGi's Playhouse Literacy program. This is from their Down Syndrome Issues and Information publication: "Teaching reading to teach talking is probably the single most effective intervention for helping children with Down syndrome overcome their learning difficulties. Reading and writing skills are important for everyday life and for access to the world of literature for all children. They are also powerful tools for teaching speech and language to children with Down syndrome and for mediating their cognitive development."

The GiGi's Playhouse literacy program embraces the "teaching reading to teach talking" intervention. It is awesome to see spoken vocabulary and sentence length increase as we teach reading!!!



Down syndrome awareness by an expert!!



I am Garrett Anderson and I have Down syndrome. I like to go to football and basketball games. I can drive a car. I like to go to the movies. I am good at video games. I like hanging out with my friends. I want to go to college. Just like you!

Garret Anderson is doing a presentation on Down syndrome for his child development class at Lake Zurich High School. He is a junior this year and is getting ready to take his A.C.T.'s next spring! He has been studying hard to get ready for college! Garrett and his family have been looking into many schools across the country. By the way Garrett has Down syndrome.

We have many parents going through the something and have had some interest in having a discussion group on this issue sometime in February. If you are interested or would like to share your personal story with the group please call the Playhouse so we can set up the dates. CONGRATULATIONS GARRETT!!!!!!

Santa
Crafts

Tree Trimming Party!!

Food
Fun!



Caroling fun!!! Hugs, Kisses and some singin' too!



2006

New Years at Noon Party!!

Saturday, Dec 31st 11:00-12:30

Balloon drop, Holiday raffle drawing, prizes, food & fun

Potty Talk

We have a group of Moms potty training and trying to make that pre-school transition a little easier with underwear! We have had some great success and would like to hear from other parents too!

Call for information. Time TBA

OPEN PLAY

Our Thursday open play group has been moved to afternoons!! Please join us for lunch the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:30-2:00

ATTENTION ALL SCRAPBOOKERS AND SCRAPBOOKER WANT-TO-BES!

Are you overwhelmed by all the photos you have and you just don't know where to begin? Well, we have the solution for you! We will be completing four pages a month at Mom's Scrapbooking Night Out so by this time next year, you will have a completed 48 page scrapbook to present to your family!!!

What's the trick to getting it done? Think by "topic" and not chronologically. Each month, we will do a theme of pictures so all you need to do is gather up to 30 photos for that theme and bring them with you. The photos can be from one year or multiple years-it doesn't matter. In fact, if you are years behind, then bringing five years worth of photos is a great way to catch up!! You have your choice to decorate the pages as you wish each month, or purchase a kit and just put it together!!!

So join us on January 23, 2006 with your Fall/Halloween pictures and we'll get started. We'll give you a schedule in January as to the themes each month so you can gather the photos you need each month!

If you have any questions, please contact Lora Bak at 630-790-8133 or loradan-bak@sbcglobal.net. If you want to use the kit each month, you MUST RSVP at least two weeks in advance so the kit can be assembled for you. Otherwise, please RSVP by the Friday before. Looking forward to seeing you!



Everyone is welcome at GiGi's Playhouse! Due to the need for scheduling volunteers and acquiring supplies, *reservations are greatly appreciated for all playhouse activities.* Call the Playhouse to make a reservation for all events at (847) 885-PLAY, e-mail gianni4567@aol.com or sloenneke@gigisplayhouse.com. Feel free to leave a message - see you soon!!



Winter JANUARY Winter



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

GiGi's Playhouse is located 3 miles West of Woodfield Shopping Mall next to Schaumburg Toyota in the Brandess Center. 1069 W. Golf Road. Hoffman Estates, IL.60194 847-885-PLAY www.gigisplayhouse.com

GiGi's Playhouse Too is located in Plainfield IL. For their activities go to www.gigisplayhousetoo.com or call 630-778-PLAY

1	2 No Literacy program today! 	3 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 & 3:30 - 6:30 	4 Special Intentions Support Group 7:00	5 Open Play Time 12:30 - 2:00 ** (Please Note New time) 	6	7 ★ January B-Day Party 10:00 - 12:00
8 Hispanic Open Play 11:00 - 1:00 	9 Literacy Program 9:00 - 3:00 Committee Meeting 7:00	10 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 & 3:30 - 6:30	11 Reserved for Private Play 10:00 - 12:00	12 	13	14 2 & Under Play Group 10:00 - 11:00
15 Cheerleading Practice 12:00 - 1:00 	16 Literacy Program 9:00 - 3:00 Scrapbooking Night 7:00 	17 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 & 3:30 - 6:30	18 	19 Open Play Time 12:30 - 2:00 ** (Please Note New time) 	20	21 Ups for Downs Kids Club 1:30-3:00
22 Polish Play Group 1:00 - 3:00 	23 Literacy Program 9:00 - 3:00 	24 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 & 3:30 - 6:30	25 Reserved Private Play 10:00 - 12:00 Reserved For private support group 7:00-9:00	26 	27 ★ Friday Friends Movie & Popcorn Night!! 7:00 - 9:00 (18 AND UP) 	28
29	30 Literacy Program 9:00 - 3:00 	31 Literacy Program 9:00 - 12:00 & 3:30 - 6:30		★ RSVP Greatly Appreciated (847)885-PLAY *** Friends & Family are always welcome at the Playhouse and there is No Charge for GiGi's Playhouse Events.		

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

Holiday Raffle!



What a day at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange! We sold tons of tickets and they matched the ticket price for CME members!! There is still time to buy tickets!! The drawing is Dec. 31st at the New Years at noon Party!! Call or go on line for info.

The note cards are here!!!

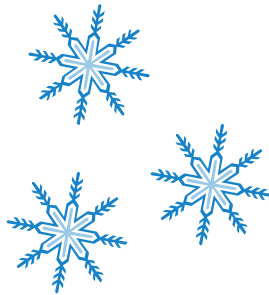


The caption on this reads "Grace invites you to see the wonders, the magic, and the joy of Down syndrome!" Cards are from the calendar pictures (Cards are blank on inside) They are as beautiful as they are educational!!

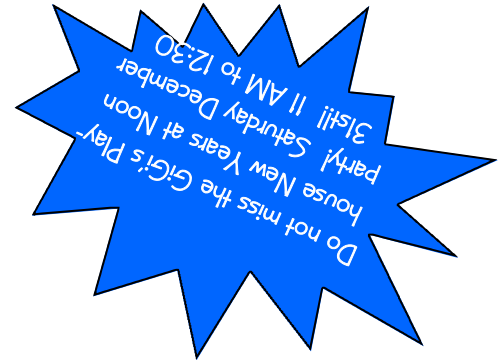
WANTED!!

GiGi's Playhouse is in desperate need for a musical director to help with our performances!! We also need help on our camera committee!! If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in volunteering and helping us on our DS awareness mission please call the Playhouse ASAP!! No job is too small!! Please get involved!!

Please help spread DS awareness by volunteering!!



Address label



GiGi's Playhouse
 1069 West Golf Road
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60194
www.gigisplayhouse.com