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GIGI'S NEWS

JUNE 2009

Proud of Our Reader

Some people think that our Literacy program is only for children. Wait until you read this story!!



Lisa came to our Literacy Program in January with the reading ability of a preschooler. She knew a few words, recognized her name and had a stubborn desire to learn more. She is 35 years old.

We started out much like I did with my other students, with beginning level books. When I pushed her past what I thought was her limit, and asked her if it

was too difficult she would say, "I like easy and I like hard. I like them both." There was no technique or new reading game she wouldn't try. She would work for an hour solid without batting an eye so I was kept on my toes coming up with things for her to do! By the third session, Lisa was **READING!** Two sessions ago, she read a book to me without any help and with full comprehension. When the story was funny, she laughed. She's reading and enjoying what she reads!

The GiGi's literacy program is not only helping kids learn to read but also providing the opportunity for

adults that might not have been taught how to read when they were younger. As this story shows, a 35-year-old with Down syndrome is perfectly capable of learning how to read, and more importantly, **NEEDS** to learn and **DESERVES** to learn. She knows what she is capable of and it is far greater than what people see, what even I can see. So I'll keep bringing the books and the flashcards, but I'll let her show me what she can do because as soon as I think I've put my finger on her limits, she just surprises me again and again.

Here is another example of how the Playhouse helps everyone reach their potential!

Go Mighty Max!

**Sunday
June
14th**

I started coming to Open Play when Max was about 5 months old. I remember feeling so nervous to walk in by myself and then felt part of an instant family. It was a place where I felt welcome and Max was celebrated.

I was hooked after one day :)! Max loves going there too; he acts as if he owns the place when he walks in.

I love the 5K because it is such a celebratory day. It is fun and is something that people of all ages can participate in. Our friends and family have seen how much we all benefit from GiGi's Playhouse and want to support the cause. Also, I really think Max's energy and enthusiasm is contagious and people want to be a part of it. Our goal is to be the biggest team this year! Go Mighty Max!



Register Now! Go to:

www.gigisplayhouse.org to register to run, walk, or just to come and celebrate Down syndrome! This huge awareness event has something for everyone — bring your whole family!

Registration begins at 7:30am and race time is 8:45am! The kids can play on the inflatables, see Ronald McDonald or stop by the photo booth for a picture!

Please join us for the festivities — even if you don't walk or run!



Tutor Workshop

On Thursday, April 16th, GiGi's Fox Valley hosted a workshop for tutors to present ideas and strategies to use on younger children enrolled in the literacy program, and for those children who are non-verbal. The workshop was facilitated by **Ashleigh Plauche**, GiGi's Literacy Director, and was attended by 15 tutors from the various Playhouses. Questions were answered, information was shared,



and there was time left for the

Literacy Corner

tutors to create an activity that they could incorporate into their tutoring sessions. We look forward to more collaborative meetings in the future.

Programs & Activities!

Look at all of our free educational programs and activities! Check your local Playhouse calendar to see times and dates.

To view a full description of our programs, go to our website. Our programs are designed with a

therapeutic element, though the kids are having so much fun they don't even realize they are

learning! The emphasis may be on socialization, fine or gross motor skills, but the kids have fun!

2 & Under Playgroup ♦ Families with children 2 and under get together and play while the parents network with each other. Siblings always welcome.

dence all while having a great time! 1st -3rd grades (6-8yr olds).

Open Play ♦ Come on over for pizza, pop and fun! Everyone is welcome to this weekly gathering of networking and friendship building.

Crawlers ♦ This group focuses on crawling skills as well as fine motor skills, social interaction with peers in a semi-structured environment.

Kids Club ♦ This fast paced group incorporates social, communication and confidence-building skills and activities! 4th-8th grades (9-12 yr olds)

Literacy ♦ Our free Literacy program teaches kids with Down syndrome how to read the way that they learn best!! This is by appointment only — call your local Playhouse for more info.

Walkers ♦ This group focuses on post walking skills with peers to prepare children for school activities (balance beam, kicking, throwing, jumping, etc.).

Teen-Tastic ♦ What a party! We order pizza for dinner and have lots of fun watching movies and playing games with each other. 9th-12th grades (13-17 year olds).

Daddy & Me ♦ Dads, bring your kids and meet other fathers in your area! What a great time to hang out with your kids while meeting new people.

Hop, Skip & Jumpers ♦ This program helps promote friendships, social skills, and interactive play through fun creative activities! For preschool and kindergartners (3-5yr olds).

Friday Friends ♦ Karaoke, dances, softball games — the fun never ends! Adults 18 + over.

Reserve it! ♦ The Playhouse can be reserved for any Down syndrome function or other special needs group. Call your local Playhouse for more info.

Playhouse Pals ♦ This structured playgroup focuses on developing friendships and confi-

Nuestros Angeles ♦ Spanish speaking families gather for food, fun, friendship and education!

Polish Group ♦ What a party! Many Polish speaking families attend this group each month to meet other families and have a great time together!

* Children must always be accompanied by a parent/adult

Exciting New Program at Fox Valley Playhouse!

This class is designed for children ages 18-36 months. It will meet **Mondays 9:30-11am**. This 90-minute structured class for children with Down syndrome and parents meets weekly and will have mini-sessions of music, sensory exploration, gym/gross motor play, and snack time. Special emphasis is given to learning routines, following instructions, and making transitions. Come ready to

build 'pre' — preschool skills and have fun with friends at Tot Class! Enrollment is limited and regular participation will be expected.

We are seeking general volunteers as well as volunteers with therapy backgrounds for this exciting new program. If you are interested please contact us at foxvalley@gigisplayhouse.org



Yes She Can!

When I was told we would have a daughter with Down syndrome, it is difficult to put into words how I felt that day. I was sad, scared, angry and confused.

After Josie came home from the hospital and I was ready to talk I called GiGi's mom, Nancy Gianni. There couldn't have been a better person for me to have been put in touch with. The excitement in her voice when she talked about GiGi was contagious. She told me about all the things that GiGi CAN do such as, fishing, swimming, tee-ball



and even learning to read. For the first time since Josie was born I was starting to realize all of the things that my daughter would be able to do. My husband and I decided to take

our first trip to the Fox Valley Playhouse and were greeted by Natalie, a beautiful little 4-year-old girl who planted a big smooch right on Josie. I felt comfortable and welcome. I know we may have some tough times ahead of us but I feel that with the support of our new friends it may be a little easier than we

had originally anticipated. I look forward to one day in the future, when

the 4-year-old at the door, welcoming the new babies with a kiss is my Josie.

Did You See It?

GiGi's Playhouse was on Channel 7 (ABC's WLS-TV) on Mother's Day! Go to www.gigisplayhouse.org to see Karen Meyers and the families at the Chicago Playhouse share what it means to have a Playhouse in their area.



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Literacy Program 9-10:30am	4 Open Play 10-11:30am	5	6 Hop, Skip & Jumpers 10-11:30am
7 Siouxland Faces Photo Shoot call for appointment 712.226.PLAY	8 Signing Times 9:30-10am Open Play 10-11am activity: Bugs	9 Open Play 10:30am-Noon activity: Farm Animals	10 Literacy Program 9-10:30am	11	12 Teen Group 6-8pm Pajama Party	13
14	15	16 Walkers 9:30-11am	17 Literacy Program 9-10:30am	18	19	20 Open Play 1-2:30pm
21	22	23 Open Play 10:30am-Noon activity: Fish	24 Literacy Program 9-10:30am	25	26	27
28	29	30	June			

Volunteers are Priceless!

Our Educator & Therapist Open House on April 7th brought in many new faces interested in learning more about the programs Gigi's Playhouse has to offer. We had more than 25 new volunteers.

Miranda Galvin attended and says, *"As an Elementary Special Education Teacher, I am thrilled to have the chance to facilitate the Hop, Skip, and Jumpers group! We will work on fine and gross motor skills, social interaction, and the celebration of each participant and his or her family."*

To learn more about how to volunteer for any of our programs call us at **712.226.PLAY!**

Literacy Tutoring

Begins in June! If you are interested in having your child in the Literacy Program or would like to be a Literacy Tutor (remember no prior experience necessary...we will TRAIN you!). For more information, call the playhouse at **712.226.PLAY** or email siouxcity@gigisplayhouse.org Volunteer Night is **May 29th** at **6pm**.



Spring Spectacular!

Our Easter Egg-stravaganza on April 4th was a huge hit! Lots of families enjoyed a fun Spring Event! The kids took part in egg dying, making bunny bags, painting, playing with a parachute, sporting their bunny headbands and an Easter Egg Hunt! The day was complete with a visit from Buddy the Bear dressed like a bunny! The kids danced and played with him! Despite cold weather outside... it was a sunshiny event inside!

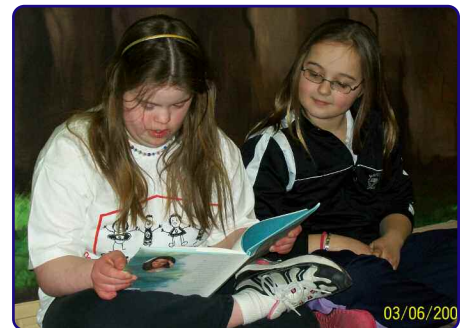
Birthday Bash!

Our 1st Birthday Pals was held on April 26th. We celebrated with eight Birthday Children for the birthday months of January, February and March! We played Musical Chairs, Pin the Nose on the Clown, Birthday Cake Ring Toss, Duck-Duck-Goose and enjoyed birthday cake-to-gether! It was a Happy Birthday Celebration for ALL!



Signing Times Goes "Buggy"

You won't want to miss the **June 8th** Signing Times event with Miss Linda at 9:30am before Open Play. We will be learning some new signs and refreshing old ones. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn.



Teen Group

Calling all teens! Come hang out with our Teen Group on **Friday, June 12** from **6-8pm!** Bring your friends we will have snacks, music, games, etc!! Our theme is..... Pajama Party.

HOFFMAN ESTATES

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Language Seminar 7pm <i>at Chicago Playhouse</i>	Literacy 10am-2pm Literacy Tutor Training 6-8pm	Literacy 3-5:15pm Special Intentions Meeting 7pm	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:30-7pm		
7	Literacy 2:30-4:45pm Meeting 7pm	Literacy 10am-2pm	Literacy 3-5:15pm Meeting 7-9pm	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:30-7pm Wendy's Night 4-8pm <i>Golf & Roselle Road</i>	12	Crawlers 9-9:45am 2 & Under 10-11:30am Hop, Skip & Jumpers Noon-1:30pm Playhouse Pals 2-3:30pm Teen-Tastic 5-6:30pm
GiGi's 5K Run & Walk 8:45am	Executive Board Meeting 7pm	Literacy 10am-2pm	Literacy 3-5:15pm	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:30-7pm	19	20
Nuestros Angeles <i>Hispanic Playgroup</i> 11am-1pm	Literacy 2:30-4:45pm HE Board Meeting 7pm	Literacy 10am-2pm	Literacy 3-5:15pm Literacy Bookmaking 6:30-8:30pm <i>all are invited!</i>	Open Play 12:30-2pm Literacy 5:30-7pm Wendy's Night 4-8pm <i>Golf & Roselle Road</i>	Friday Friends 7pm <i>BBQ at Roberta's house</i>	Kids Club 10-11:30am
Polish Group 11am-1pm	29	Literacy 10am-2pm	June			

Girl Scouts Visit

Talia's 4th grade Girl Scout Troop visited GiGi's. They learned some sign language, and talked about speech and communication and Down syndrome. They also met a baby who demonstrated sign language so the girls had the chance to see a baby with Down syndrome use many different signs. It was a great experience for the girls to learn more about their friend and classmate, Talia, and Down syndrome!



Helping Our Kids Learn to Read!

32 Literacy books for our kids were completed by a wonderful team of volunteers, including some friends from the Inverness Women's Club! The impact of our literacy program is amazing—our kids have fun, and they learn to read—which helps their confidence in school.

Help us this June! The last **Wednesday** of every month, volunteers come to the Playhouse from **6:30-8:30pm**. Our team leaders will guide you through the process (copying, laminating and cutting custom materials). **June 24th** is the next Bookmaking night — if you can help us, email info@gigisplayhouse.com so we have materials ready for you!

Kids Club

Calling all 9-12 year olds!! Kids Club is the place to be on **Sat., June 27!** We have exciting plans for the summer, come ready for fun and bring a friend!

Marc Janovics, World Special Olympic Champion, will be our guest of honor for the June 27th Kids Club!

He will be bringing his medals, photos with famous people and some videos.



Hop, Skip & Jumpers and Playhouse Pals

The theme will be under the sea, so wear blue. We will use our problem solving skills and teamwork to find our way through the sea!

Calling All Teens!

June 13th - Fiesta Time!

On **July 11th**, you are invited to a summer kick-off dance party! Bring a snack and a friend, all are invited from all Playhouses!

Friday Friends

Our Friday Friends had a great jam session! We are looking forward to a barbeque at Roberta's house on **June 26!** RSVP to Roberta at **847.839.8966**. All adults with Down syndrome are welcome to join this group!



FOX VALLEY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Literacy 4:30-5:30pm Language Seminar 7pm <i>at Chicago Playhouse</i>	Literacy Program 5:30-6pm	Literacy Program 12:30-1:30pm Literacy Program 4:30-5:30pm	Literacy Program 4-6pm	Teen-Tastic 7-9pm RSVP 630.778.PLAY	Literacy 9-10am 2 & Under 9:30-11am 3-4 yr old Playgroup 11am-12:30pm
7	Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Open Play 11am-1pm Literacy 4:30-5:30pm	Literacy Program 5:30-6pm	Literacy 12:30-1:30pm Literacy 4:30-5:30pm	Literacy 4-6pm Wendy's Fundraiser 5-8pm	Special Olympics Young Athlete Program 4-4:45pm 4:45-5:30pm <i>Classes are full, please call playhouse for more information</i>	Literacy 9-10am Walkers Group 9:30-10:30am Daddy & Me 3-4:30pm
GiGi's 5K Run & Walk 8:45am	Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Literacy 4:30-5:30pm	Literacy Program 5:30-6pm	Literacy 12:30-1:30pm Literacy 4:30-5:30pm Karate Kickers Ages 8-12: 5:15-5:45pm 13 and up: 6-6:30pm RSVP 815.436.3817	Literacy Program 4-6pm	19	Literacy Program 9-10am Hop Skip & Jumpers 10:30am-Noon RSVP 630.335.4824 Playhouse Pals 2-4pm
21	Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY Open Play 11am-1pm Literacy 4:30-5:30pm	Literacy Program 5:30-6pm	Literacy 12:30-1:30pm Literacy 4:30-5:30pm	Literacy Program 4-6pm	GiGi's Family Night 6-8pm RSVP 630.844.1720	Literacy Program 9-10am
Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Play Group 11am-1pm	Tot Class 9:30-11am RSVP 630.778.PLAY	Literacy Program 5:30-6pm	30	<h1>June</h1>		

Open House

"This is such a nice event and we've had a lot of fun!" was a sentiment voiced by many families during our Open House on May 3rd. One of the most important aspects of this event was meeting new families visiting for the first time and hearing that they were excited to have a place close to home where the focus is on the success of their children, and to learn of the support available to their whole family.

From dancing to the sounds of DJ Kaptain Karaoke, to our bounce house from Ameen Khalil, to the petting zoo and pony rides from Zoo-To-You, many families and volunteers were able to attend this event and interact with each other. We also enjoyed watching children and parents ride adaptive bicycles designed by Creative Mobility. Jamba Juice hosted a raffle and gave



20% of the proceeds back to the playhouse, while Joe Izzo of Clix portrait studios donated his services to capture picture memories of the event for us.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers, donors and service providers who helped make this day so successful including our landlord Steve Dawidiuk, who graciously allowed use of the Plaza Square property; to Bill Pauley with the City of Aurora for providing us with traffic safety dividers; and to John Maples of PepsiCo for donating Pepsi-Cola products and our Site Coordinator, Annie Sloka.

GiGi's Family Night

Family Night in April was so much fun! We ate some yummy pizza and played with all our new friends. Before we created a Mother's day card we danced together to "Shake your Sillies out" and more! We also welcomed a new friend, Alex, 15. He said "this is so much fun! I can't wait to come again." Thank you to all the families who are making this group a big success! Our next Family Night will meet on June 26th. Please RSVP Genia at

glatka@gigisplayhouse.org or



630.844.1720 with the number of children and adults attending. Hope you can join the fun!

Welcome Annie Sloka!

We are happy to have Annie as our new site coordinator. She will be at the playhouse Monday through Thursday from 9:15am-1pm. Outside of her time

at GiGi's Playhouse, Annie also serves as a Director of music ministries for the First Presbyterian Church of DuPage in Bolingbrook. Annie resides in Naperville with her husband and their two

children, who also happen to be in the autistic spectrum. Thank you, Annie, for all your hard work!



McHENRY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Language Seminar 7pm <i>at Chicago Playhouse</i>	Open Play 10am–Noon			Signing til Dawn 5:30–6:30pm Skill Builders 6:45pm	
Nuestros Angeles Hispanic Play Group 10am–Noon		Open Play 10am–Noon Wendy's Night 5–8pm		Options & Advocacy 10–11:30am Volunteer Orientation 7–8pm	Signing til Dawn 5:30–6:30pm Teen Tastics 7–8pm	
GiGi's 5K Run & Walk 8:45am		Open Play 10am–Noon			Signing til Dawn 5:30–6:30pm Kids Club & FFF 6:30–8pm	
		Open Play 10am–Noon		Book Making/ Make & Take Night 6:30–8pm	Signing til Dawn 5:30–6:30pm Friday Friends 7–9pm	Themed Open Play 10–11:30am Skill Builders 1–3pm
Hawgs & Hot Rods <i>Krusin' 4 the Kids</i>		Open Play 10am–Noon	<h1>June</h1>			

Welcome Nuestros Angeles!

By Jackie Bueno

I'm very excited that there is a growing turn out for our Playgroup. This experience is very personal to me because I am bilingual and I've been translating since I was very young. I think it's very important that awareness is spread to the Hispanic community especially because there aren't that many resources in Spanish out there. Some families are afraid to go out and research because of the language barrier or the hassle of finding someone to translate. Hopefully we'll see more Hispanic families coming out to visit. I'm so excited to see our Spanish play group finally come to life.

Nuestros Angeles is an all-ages playgroup for Spanish speaking families, held every first Sunday of the month, 10am–Noon. Come play and socialize! For more information, call Jackie Bueno at **815.385.Play**

Estoy muy contenta que finalmente las familias han venido a visitar. Esta experiencia es muy personal para mi porque soy bilingue y he estado traduciendo desde muy joven. Creo que es muy importante extender conocimiento sobre síndrome de down a la comunidad hispana. Especialmente porque no hay muchos recursos en Español. Algunas familias tienen miedo de salir a investigar debido a la barrera del idioma o por pena de preguntarle a alguien que traduzca. Espero de ver mas familias hispanas visitar el grupo de juego. Estoy muy contenta de ver a nuestro grupo desarrollarse.

Nuestros Angeles es un grupo de juego para familias hispanas con niños de todas edades. Nos juntamos el primer Domingo de cada mes, 10am–Media día. Venga a jugar y a socializar! Para mas informacion, llame a Jackie Bueno a **815.385.Play**.



New Programs Coming Soon

As the weather warms up, we're starting to get excited about summer programs here at GiGi's McHenry! First of all, we are gathering ideas for some brand new programs and we would love to hear what YOU think. We grow and develop our Playhouse based on the needs of our families. Coming in June....CHEERLEADING!

Ever wonder how you could help out? Please join us in McHenry on **Thursday, June 11th** at **7pm** for our Volunteer Orientation to see how!

Join GiGi's Playhouse McHenry for **4th of July** celebrations. Show your Pride and help to spread down syndrome awareness in the Crystal Lake parade on **July 5th** and also in the McHenry Fiesta Days Parade on **July 19th**.



CHICAGO

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Literacy 9-11am Motivational Mondays 7pm <i>Speaker: Lora White</i> Language Seminar 7pm <i>at Chicago Playhouse</i>	Literacy 4-6:15pm Tutoring 4-5:30pm	Tutoring 5:30-6:15pm	Open Play 11:30am-1pm Tutoring 7-7:45pm	Literacy Program 9-11am	Tutoring 9-9:45am Open Play 10:15-11:30am
Nuestros Angeles <i>Hispanic Group</i> 11:15am-1:15pm	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 5-6:30pm	Literacy 4-6:15pm Tutoring 4-5:30pm	Tutoring 5:30-6:15pm	Tutoring 7-7:45pm	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 4:30-6pm	Playhouse Pals 11:15am-12:45pm
GiGi's 5K Run & Walk 8:45am	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 5-6:30pm	Literacy 4-6:15pm Tutoring 4-5:30pm	Tutoring 5:30-6:15pm	Open Play 11:30am-1pm Tutoring 7-7:45pm	Literacy Program 9-11am	Tutoring 9-9:45am Open Play 10:15-11:30am Kids Club Noon-1:30pm
	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 5-6:30pm	Literacy 4-6:15pm Tutoring 4-5:30pm	Tutoring 5:30-6:15pm	Tutoring 7-7:45pm	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 4:30-6pm	Crawlers 10-10:45am 2 & Under 11am-12:15pm Hop Skip & Jumpers 12:30-2pm
	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 5-6:30pm	Literacy 4-6:15pm Tutoring 4-5:30pm		<h1>June</h1>		
	Literacy 9-11am Tutoring 5-6:30pm	Literacy 4-6:15pm Tutoring 4-5:30pm				

Motivational Mondays

an update....

Our first Motivational Monday was hosted by Sisters Caitlin Pultz and Kiera Breault. They shared stories about growing up together and the special relationship they share. It truly was an inspirational event! When describing what it means to have Down syndrome, Kiera stated, "I have an extra chromosome, oh well!" She went on to state that she considers Down



syndrome "a gift". Thank you to Caitlin and Kiera for sharing their gifts with us!

July 13th at 7pm
Featuring: Kelly Arnoldy, Pediatric Physical Therapist

Kelly, a therapist for many Chicago Playhouse children, will give an informational seminar on topics ranging from transitioning your child from crawling to walking, to con-

tinued PT practices into the teenage years. She will share her experiences as a PT and will end the seminar with an open forum to answer your questions.

GiGi's volunteer Michele Pusatera hosted a Lill Studio design party where individuals were able to choose a style and fabrics to create the purse of their dreams! The best part... Lill Studio donates 15% to the Playhouse. Special thanks to Michele — with her dedication and initiative this event raised over \$1300 for the Chicago Playhouse!!!

Game Night.... a HUGE Success!

If you weren't one of the over 100 people who attended this event you really missed out! Here are the highlights: tons of games, a rockin' DJ, deli-

cious food and drinks, friendly competition and the ultimate game night champion....Bill Conrad.



Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Heineken • Le Cordon Bleu School of Culinary Arts • Budweiser • Hefty • Biagio's

Special thanks to all the volunteers that made this night possible— we could not do this without you!

Language & Communication

Join Lora White, SLP, at the Chicago Playhouse on **June 1st** from **7-9pm**.



Hoffman Estates
1069 W. Golf Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

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SAVE THESE DATES

June 14th ■ 5K Run & Walk

Register now at www.gigisplayhouse.org for 5K Awareness event!

June 28th ■ Hawgs and Hot Rods

July 30th ■ Fox Valley Annual Golf Outing

Sept. 19th ■ Bike Ride Fox Valley Charity

Golf Outing

Join GiGi's Playhouse for our **4th Annual Golf Outing** on **Thursday, July 30th** at the Tamarack Golf Club in Naperville, IL. Registration begins at Noon with a 1:30pm tee time. \$150 per golfer includes lunch & dinner. Silent auction & prizes awarded for top performers. Space is limited, register today at www.gigisplayhouse.org

We are looking for volunteers the day of the event. If you can volunteer some time to help make this event a success, please contact Annie at GiGi's Fox Valley at **630.778.PLAY (7529)** or email foxvalley@gigisplayhouse.org

Language & Communication

Lora White, SLP, focuses on all aspects of communication, including oral motor delays, for parents. Bring your questions to this meeting!

For families of children 3-6 years old, **Monday, June 1st** from **7-9pm** at the Chicago Playhouse.



Event Note

Hawgs & Hot Rods Krusin' 4 the Kids-Ice Cream Poker Run fundraising event on **Sunday, June 28th** at Woodstock Harley-Davidson. Check out the website for more details!



Cubs Cares!

The Cubs Cares and McCormick Foundation have granted GiGi's Playhouse Chicago a literacy grant! Pitcher Sean Marshall presented us with the check after a fabulous luncheon. Thanks Cubs!

Teens & Adults!

We have expanded the Hoffman location to include Club GiGi, a teen and adult center, and administrative offices, more literacy tutoring rooms and a cool place to hang out! Look for our opening coming soon!