



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

Down Syndrome Awareness Centers  
www.gigisplayhouse.com

Now with two locations!

GiGi's Playhouse  
June, 2006

## Raising awareness and learning to read!

The 5k Fun Run 1 mile walk does more than just raise awareness about Down syndrome, it is also the driving force behind the GiGi's Playhouse Free "Learn to Read" Literacy Program! This year alone we are tutoring over 70 kids age 2-26 at the Hoffman Estates location alone. Wendy Sierras has recently started the program at GiGi's Playhouse Too (our Plainfield location) and already has a waiting list! They really could use some help with materials. A portion of the funds raised from this years 5k will go towards getting them some much needed equipment! It doesn't stop there! We are also helping families outside the Playhouse limits by email tutoring, phone conferencing and book making.

This program raises awareness about Down syndrome by showing people that children with Down syndrome CAN and WILL learn how to read! Even if your child is not in the program by supporting it you are helping to raise awareness about the potential of kids with Down syndrome. This program has been featured on local news programs, numerous newspaper articles and will be featured on ABC 7 news next month (date and time to follow).

### What a great first year for the literacy program!!



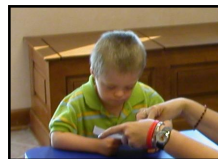
Children learn to read while building self esteem and having fun every week!!



Worked with teachers and therapists to help them teach kids with DS to read.



Expanded our program with the help of our volunteers.



Started the program at GiGi's Playhouse Too in Plainfield.



Spoke about the program at National conferences

**Please participate in the GiGi's Playhouse 5k Fun Run 1 Mile Walk to not only raise awareness about Down syndrome but raise funds for this awesome program as well!!**

### Helping to make a difference

Wow!! The Assurance Agency of Schaumburg sent over members from their ACT "Assurance Caring Together" program to help make books and materials for the literacy program! Nine of their employees were paid by the company to spend the whole day volunteering. So much work was accomplished and so many kids will be helped!!! **Thank you Assurance!**



Also, the Windy City BMW Foundation has partnered up with GiGi's Playhouse to not only help us to raise Down syndrome awareness but help raise funds too!! A local OB/Gyne was very impressed with the Playhouse and all it has to offer new families and recommended us to their board! We are honored to be affiliated with this foundation and know we will make them proud!! (Plus the Dads are going to LOVE some of their outings!!)

**Thank you!!**  
A big thank you to all the friends and families that came out to volunteer their talents and services to GiGi's Playhouse at our Town Hall meeting! We loved all of your ideas and input!! As you know GiGi's Playhouse is based on a series of miracles that continue to happen to this day.... Thank you for being a part of our miracle!!!

**Speaking of miracles....**  
While sitting at a board meeting at GiGi's Playhouse Too last month, Wendy Eurich (9 months pregnant and over due!) started to have contractions! Her face turned red and her breathing was heavy but she worked through them and continued with the meeting! She gave birth the next morning! Her son with Down syndrome, Evan, is so lucky to have a Mommy so committed to helping raise awareness about Down syndrome!! Congratulations!

# Lots of new faces are at the Playhouse every week! Stop by for some fun!!



The Saturday afternoon tumbling class. Helps build strength, endurance, self esteem and it's fun!!

## Tailgating party!!

Back by popular demand!! Crank the tunes, open the tailgate, fire up the grill and PARTY!!!

Friday, June 23rd  
7pm to 9pm (18 & up)  
We'll end the night with a little karaoke!!



Center Stage Dance Studio in Bloomingdale gave an awesome performance at the Playhouse!



## Come PARTY with us!!!!

Our monthly birthday parties will now be seasonal! The summer birthdays will have their big bash on June 3rd from 10:00 - 12:00.

The next will be the fall birthdays the first Saturday in September. Bring your family and friends for cake, presents & goody bags!!!



## Camp "Future" Friday Friends

Counselor George will be running a "Future" Friday Friends Camp (Ages 6-8) July 24 - July 28 from 10:00 - 11:30!!

There will be plenty of activities and lots of fun!! Please bring a sack lunch the first day. RSVP is required!!

## Mark your calendars!!

During the months of June - August OPEN PLAY Every Thursday from 11:30 - 1:00. Pizza, picnics and fun!!



## Debbie's Corner

GiGi's Playhouse note cards are perfect as an end of the year gift for special teachers, therapists, bus drivers, etc and they cost only \$8.00!! They feature 14 different cards including the DS creed!

Don't forget our t-shirts and beautiful awareness jewelry. Our new awareness anklet is here just in time to wear with this summer's fashions. We now offer children's sizes. Please call the playhouse to place your order today!

READING ROCKS and so does the band! July 20th join us for ice cream and a concert in the park during our first annual Scholastic book Fair! The book fair will run July 19th, 20th, and 21st. Details to follow.

Shop at Jewel-Osco on June 12-14 and June 19-21, 2006 and earn money for GiGi's Playhouse at the same time! Please download the coupon from our website and present it at the check out counter and Jewel will donate 5% of your purchase excluding tax to GiGi's Playhouse! It's that simple and don't forget to SPREAD THE WORD! Tell all of your friends, neighbors, coworkers and family members about it. You may copy this coupon or additional coupons will be available at the playhouse after May 20th. Look for coupons inside of your 5K race goodie bags also.

For any fundraising ideas please contact Debbie Ross at Soldyal@aol.com or call the Playhouse

## Participate in a study to help researchers learn more about Down syndrome!

Dr. Susan Daley will be conducting a study on individuals with Down syndrome. She needs to collect urine samples from both children with Down syndrome and their siblings.

Your child's participation in the study may help them to better understand some of the abnormalities in the metabolism in Down syndrome and help understand some of the more debilitating aspects of this syndrome. She will be collecting these samples:

**Saturday, May 20 Anytime between 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at GiGi's Playhouse.**

## Party with UPS for Downs!!

Join them on Saturday June 3, 2006 for their 22nd Annual Scotch Doubles Bowling \$50.00 per couple includes: dinner buffet, bowling & shoe rental Contact Diane Paradise at [bowling@upsfordowns.org](mailto:bowling@upsfordowns.org) or call 847-885-6216. This event will sell out! Please call to reserve your lane!





Down Syndrome Awareness Centers  
[www.gigisplayhouse.com](http://www.gigisplayhouse.com)

**GiGi's Playhouse 3rd Annual  
Down Syndrome Awareness  
5K Fun Run/1 Mile Walk  
Sunday, June 11, 2006  
9:00 a.m.**

**Busse Woods, Elk Grove Village**



**Be a part of the best finish line in town!**



All proceeds benefit the  
GiGi's Playhouse Free  
"Learn to Read"  
Literacy Program.

Join our friends from US99 as they help us kick off this years race!! Gather your friends and family and show your support! The media will be there so help us show them how strong the Down syndrome community really is! Pledge sheets are available to help you raise funds and awareness (and cover the cost of your entry!) Call the Playhouse for information. 847-885-PLAY [www.gigisplayhouse.com](http://www.gigisplayhouse.com)

**Loving a child with Down syndrome is contagious...**

GiGi's Playhouse  
Hoffman Estates, IL

**Help us spread the love!**

GiGi's Playhouse Too  
Plainfield, IL

GiGi's Playhouse  
 1069 West Golf Road  
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60194  
 Phone: 847-885-PLAY  
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[www.gigisplayhouse.com](http://www.gigisplayhouse.com)

GiGi's Playhouse too  
 Plainfield, IL 630-778-PLAY

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



Mid America Tile from Elk Grove IL is the presenting sponsor of this years GiGi's Playhouse 5K Fun Run 1Mile Walk! We can not thank them enough for their generosity!!! (Owner Tom Kotel with daughter Talia and Karli at last years 5k!!)

# Thank you to our sponsors!

We would also like to thank:  
 BUTERA MARKETS  
 STARBUCKS  
 AND ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!



Address label

Gather your friends and family and help us raise awareness for Sunday June, 11th at 9:00 am! It's the GiGi's Playhouse 3rd Annual Down Syndrome Awareness 5K Fun Run 1 Mile Walk!

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www.gigisplayhouse.com  
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