



**GiGi's
PLAYHOUSE**
Down Syndrome Awareness Centers
Chicago

educate. inspire. achieve

Newsletter



Get Ready For Our Fall Programs

We don't know about you, but we're getting ready for the end of summer. Not that we don't love the long, lazy days and warm temperatures, but we're excited for this fall to begin because we have lots of programming to showcase.

In addition to continuing our one-on-one literacy tutoring, we're getting ready to introduce our math tutoring program, with a pilot session beginning this fall. We'll also see the return of our Teen Drama and Handwriting/Occupational Therapy classes. We are especially excited to add several new classes to our fall programming! Keep watching the newsletter for upcoming kids cooking classes, young adult groups, self-defense classes and ongoing parent support/training classes.

To get us in the mood for learning, we're having a special session on "The Learner with Down Syndrome" with Shari Andress (who helped develop our literacy program) to help train tutors and parents more about how people with Down syndrome learn, and how we can help them along that path. If you're interested in any of these upcoming sessions (either as a volunteer, participant or sponsor) or the seminar, let us know at Chicago@gigisplayhouse.org.



Volunteer Focus

As a volunteer, Travis Gauchay wears many hats. He's a literacy tutor, member of the grant-writing committee and a volunteer on Fridays for our Teen Drama Class. Since coming to us in January, he's become an indispensable figure around the Chicago Playhouse.

Upon coming to Chicago from Salt Lake City (he's often recognizable in his Utah Jazz sweatshirt), Travis was looking for a place to volunteer in between bartending stints and found GiGi's. Travis has an adult brother with Down syndrome in Salt Lake and knew GiGi's would be a perfect fit for his interests.

"Being around the kids allows you to drop whatever else you have going on in your life and just have fun," Travis says. "Check your problems at the door and have a blast with these kids."

We couldn't agree more, Travis. Thanks for all your work.

Departmental Updates



October is Down syndrome awareness month, and we're looking to raise awareness and money at the same time. If you own a business (or know someone who owns one) maybe you'd consider (or have them consider) donating a portion of their proceeds during the month of October to GiGi's.

Facilities: It's about time we got a sign, isn't it? We've been taking proposals and hopefully


we'll have one outside our Playhouse (permits permitting) by the time our Anniversary Party rolls around in October. We can't wait to show it off.

Outreach and Communications: This summer, we're focusing on increasing our outreach to schools throughout Chicago. If you've got a child in school, why not pass along your case manager's information, and we'll send them info about GiGi's to give to other families.

Programs: Our Arts & Crafts sessions have been a great success, as have our Cabin Fever busters, be on the lookout for even more mini-sessions and special events this fall.



CALENDAR

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- 1 Open Play, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - 5 Arts & Crafts Class, 10:30 a.m.
Open Play, 1 – 3 p.m.
(Spanish-speaking friendly)
 - 8 Open Play, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - 15 Open Play, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - 16 Volunteer Orientation, 7 p.m.
 - 19 Open Play, 1 – 3 p.m. (Spanish-friendly)
 - 22 Open Play, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - 25 Literacy Training for Tutors and Families, 2 p.m.
 - 29 Open Play, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

GiGi's Playhouse
1069 W. Golf Rd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

nonprofit organization
u.s. postage
paid
schaumburg, il
permit no. 93

Save the Date

Come visit our table in the kids' area at
Northcenter's Ribfest on June 9-10.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED