



**GiGi's
PLAYHOUSE**
Down Syndrome Awareness Centers
Hoffman Estates

educate. inspire. achieve

Newsletter



5K Run

Team Bridget's Buddies represented Hoffman Estates in the Top 5 last year.....who will it be this year?!!!!

Get your team moving to be one of the top 5 teams this year and you will receive not only a 10 x 10 tent at the event, but a visit from honorary runner Lauren Potter from Glee!

Last year, Bridget's Buddies raised over \$4,200 and had a great time doing it. Bridget Nepil is a very happy, healthy, hilarious and bright four and a half year old who is looking forward to the race this year.



She is incredibly outgoing and adventurous, and has already participated in lots of new, fun, and sometimes challenging, experiences despite her relatively few years. She joined a competition cheer team last fall, takes swim lessons and gymnastics, and has been lucky enough to participate in the literacy program at GiGi's Playhouse, Hoffman Estates. Bridget's IEP was just completed for next year and it was so great to hear her



teacher and speech and physical therapists talk about how much progress Bridget has made this year in preschool. In our view, she receives great physical therapy from her gymnastics, cheer and swim instructors, and invaluable speech and literacy training from her GiGi's tutor, Noel. And the fact that Bridget has a blast doing all of these activities is a bonus!!



Cheer Gems

The award winning Cheer Gems have just begun their practices. It's not too late to join! They will perform at the 5K run on June 10, 2012. Come out and see what all of the fun is about! To sign up, email info@gigisplayhouse.org.

Look inside for the Hoffman program calendar!

Welcome to our newest Hoffman Family!

We are so happy to welcome Christine, Kevin, Alexis, and Kaytlin Loukota to the GiGi's Family. Christine stopped in with her daughters' 3 year old Alyssa and, at the time, 11 week old Kaytlin to see what GiGi's is all about. Since then, they have been joining us for Open Play and making new friends quickly. It is so wonderful to see their smiling faces along with all of our families each week! Mom Christine shared they found out about GiGi's while driving by the Hoffman Estates location when she was pregnant. About a week after, she saw an advertisement for GiGi's on T.V. They didn't know that Kaytlin would have Down syndrome until after she was born. It was soon after when they were referred through their doctors and friends. She said the first time they walked in GiGi's doors they were welcomed with smiles and hugs. After looking around and talking to staff and other moms she thought to herself; this place is awesome! Christine said she instantly fell in love and knows her family had too; there was an instant connection.



Christine said "We love our Kaytlin Elizabeth with all of our hearts and we hope our relationships at GiGi's continue to grow."

See you at GiGi's!

Successes in Literacy!

This story is a reminder of how successful GiGi's literacy program is. When Teagan arrived for her literacy meeting, her mom shared with us that at Teagan's IEP meeting she tested higher than her grade level in literacy for children entering kindergarten. The schools wrote the GiGi's literacy program into her IEP because they see how beneficial it is for her! Great job Teagan and your tutor Pam English, your hard work paid off!



New Hoffman Program!

L-M-N-O-P (Language, Music 'N Our Peeps) - Sign language, music, and language stimulation strategies for infants and young children (6-36 months) with Down syndrome.



The program consists of six sessions that are 40 – 45 minutes each including a review of past signs, success stories, new signs, songs/nursery rhymes related to the words presented, speech and language stimulation strategies and ideas, group sharing, and a good-bye song!

Calling all therapists and educators wanting to lead a program; how about leading this or one of our current programs? To get involved, email us at heprograms@gigisplayhouse.org.

CALENDAR

- 3 Cheer Gems Practice, 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- 6 Special Intentions Support Group, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- 7 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 9 Crawlers, 9-10 am
2 & Under, 10:00 – 11:30
Hop, Skip & Jumpers, 11:30 – 12:30
- 10 GiGi's 5K Fun Run & Walk, 7:30 am registration opens
- 14 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 18 Cheer Gems Practice, 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- 21 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 22 Friday Friends, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- 23 Kids Club, 10:30
- 28 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm



Inspiring Moms Together!!!



With all of these new babies arriving at the Hoffman Playhouse Jaimie, mom of Sophie and Olivia has created a new parent group! The group is designed to give parents of children ages 2 and under a place to network as well as to give new parents an introduction to the GiGi's culture. The group will help you understand the Down syndrome diagnosis, navigate new interventions, and you will help create the NEW Celebration Packet! Join us the last Thursday of the month, June 28, 2012 at 11:30 am. What a great way to meet other parents.....we hope to see you then!

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

nonprofit organization

u.s. postage

paid

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permit no. 93

Calling all volunteers!

We need your help for the 5K, programs, administrative.....we need your help whatever your skill. Contact Lori Baker, site coordinator at Hoffman at lbaker@gigisplayhouse.org. I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know you better.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED