



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

educate. inspire. achieve

# Newsletter



## The Amazing Chicago Cubs Organization!!!

Cubs Care and the McCormick Foundation generously provided tickets at no cost to the GiGi's Playhouse families for the August 15, 2012, baseball game vs. the Houston Astros. Over 680 family members participated in the day! The weather was beautiful, the company was great and best of all the Cubs won 7 - 2!!!

One of the families in attendance was Carlos and Lizette Vasquez and their son Lucas. Lizette contacted the Playhouse the evening of the 15th to share the following thoughts about their day; "Before the night gets away from me I wanted to send an email thanking you for tickets to today's Chicago Cubs game. It was the very first time that our son Lucas has been to a professional baseball game and it gave us some special memories to cherish. Lucas was born 11 months ago with Down syndrome and some health complications that for many months did not allow us to take

him out and about and do fun things together as a family. It is only recently, now that our health issues are under control, that we get to focus on other stuff like taking our son to experience fun events like seeing the Cubs or hanging out with our friends at GiGi's Playhouse regularly. I cannot thank both organizations enough for thinking of our families and allowing us the opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy some great baseball! I have attached a photo of Lucas today at Wrigley Field! We made sure to take plenty of photos for his scrapbook and plan to take him back each year to watch the Cubs!"



## Open Play is Fun, Fun, Fun!

Who doesn't love to play! Join us every Thursday afternoon from 12:30 - 2:00 to play and stay for lunch. This is a great opportunity for families and siblings to network and spend time together while our amazing volunteers read stories, play games, and just spend time with the kids!



## Thank you to our Supporters!!

We are so appreciative of all of the families and friends that support our Playhouse efforts! We are giving a special 'Shout Out' to John and Laura Rouse of Park Ridge. The Park Ridge Community Women's (PRCW) Mardi Gras Event raised funds for the remodel of one of our Literacy/Math Tutoring rooms. At that event, the Rouse's were the winning bidders for a private concert from the band 'The Rooseveltones'. The Rouse family decided to continue giving to GiGi's through the concert. They invited their friends to the private party and concert asking attendees to make a \$10 donation to GiGi's Playhouse. That event raised over \$525 for GiGi's! We are so fortunate that there are people in the community that find creative ways to support our educational efforts. **THANK YOU John and Laura Rouse!!**

## L-M-N-O-P (Language, Music 'N Our Peeps) Program a Huge Success!



Thirteen of our families have reaped the benefits of the program's first cycle which ended on August 14. The new cycle starts on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 10:00 am so mark your calendar and join us! The focus is on children up to 36 months (or older if appropriate), their parents, grandparents, siblings, and any other family members you think will benefit from learning basic hand signs, and language stimulation strategies for infants and young children. Rebecca Morris will return as the program leader and looks forward to reconnecting with returning families and connecting with new ones!!



**Hoffman Estates**  
847.885.PLAY (7529)

**Fox Valley**  
630.778.PLAY (7529)

**McHenry**  
815.385.PLAY (7529)

**Rockford**  
815.654.PLAY (7529)

**Chicago**  
773.583.PLAY (7529)

**Sioux City**  
712.226.PLAY (7529)

**Des Moines**  
515.252.PLAY (7529)

**Atlanta**  
866.946.PLAY (7529)

**Quad Cities**  
309.762.PLAY (7529)

**New York, NY**  
646.801.PLAY (7529)

**Coming Soon**  
Bradley, IL  
Queretaro, Mexico

Syracuse, NY  
Twin Cities, MN

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

nonprofit organization

u.s. postage

**paid**

schaumburg, il

permit no. 93

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 7, 2012 for the 9th Annual GiGifest to be held in the shopping center parking lot at the Hoffman Estates GiGi's Playhouse location! You can expect games, food, fun, and the ever-popular 'red carpet walk' of our Calendar kids.

## More Babies Visit the Playhouse!

We are so excited to introduce two of our newest Playhouse Families!

6 week old Nikola Lyaskov brought his older sister Elena and his parents, Mom Sunny and Dad Damyon to see the Playhouse and make some new friends. The Playhouse was abuzz with 10 families in the L-M-N-O-P Program so it could not have been a better time to stop by. Nikola slept during most of the visit while his sister Elena began playing with all of the toys in the Playhouse. She especially enjoyed crawling through the big caterpillar! The entire family came back two days later to participate in Open Play and meet more families. This time Nikola was awake and smiled for anyone who wanted to hold him. We look forward to seeing the family at weekly programs and special events!

It was so nice to see the smiling faces of the Barber/Somers Family when they visited the Playhouse. They arrived for Open Play where they were immediately greeted by one of our volunteers who was more than happy to hold their precious Ashlyn, about 8 weeks old and recently home from the hospital! Mom Rhonda and Dad Teric enjoyed meeting other families and talking with other parents while big sister Jordan enjoyed the slide time and time again! The hospital social worker connected the family with our Playhouse.

Rhonda talked on the phone with our New Parent program leader, Jaimie Rios (Board President) and then they were finally able to come for a visit. They said they look forward to spending time with all of the new GiGi's friends they met on their first visit!



## Volunteers Needed!!! Help at the Playhouse.....

We are always in need of core volunteers to help with projects such as scheduling our tutors, coordinating our many wonderful volunteers, acting as the liaison between our Program Leaders and our families, or for general administrative work. To get involved, email us at [hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org](mailto:hoffmanestates@gigisplayhouse.org) with your interests and we will make the connection to support GiGi's Playhouse!!

## September Calendar

- 5 Special Intentions Support Group, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- 6 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 8 Crawlers, 9:00 – 10:00 am  
2 and Under, 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
Hop, Skip & Jumpers, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
- 9 Nuestros Angeles, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- 11 L-M-N-O-P Program, 10:00 – 11:00 am
- 13 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 18 L-M-N-O-P Program, 10:00 – 11:00 am
- 20 Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 21 Friday Friends, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- 25 L-M-N-O-P Program, 10:00 – 11:00 am
- 27 New Parent Program, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Open Play, 12:30 – 2:00 pm
- 29 3 – 4 Year olds Playgroup, 9:00 am – 10:00 am  
Kids Club, 10:30 am

