

Real Special Times

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Please email

[newsletter@](mailto:newsletter@realspecial.co.nz)

realspecial.co.nz if

you have anything

to share:

Celebrations

Letter and tips

Personal

experiences

Recipes

Just for fun

Links

(and don't forget

Edith's comp too!)

All submissions are assumed to be for publication, unless clearly marked "not for publication". You must provide your name, address, phone number and / or email. Items will be published at our discretion, may be edited, and will only give your initial letter, surname and area.

Real Special News

New Products

Lucid now have a new range of programmes (see our

Assessment Section

www.realspecial.co.nz).

Lucid Ability provides swift and

effective adaptive assessment

of verbal and non-verbal

reasoning skills. Available in

three versions for ages 4-8, 7-

12 and 11-16 years, the

assessment time averages 15-20

minutes (conventional

assessments can take 2 to 3

times longer). Single user, one

year licence is only \$160 NZD +

GST! Other options available.

Free Nessy upgrade

From April 1st to June 17th only,

Nessy are offering our existing

customers the opportunity

of exchanging their key-code

activated programme to the

disc-in-drive version for FREE!

Just email us your request to

exchange with your details,

activation code and User ID.

Price rises

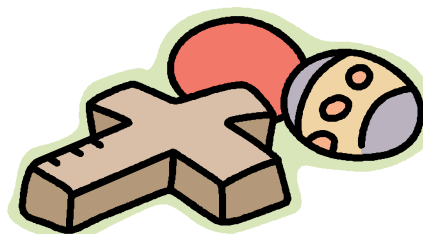
Unfortunately due to the dropping NZ dollar, we have had to increase some prices, e.g.

Earobics Home version is now \$115 NZD + GST. However, we still pride ourselves on offering the most competitive NZ prices.

Sales items

Click the Home Page poodle logo for Sales items and specials.

Celebrations!



Easter is one of the biggest celebrations for Christians, and for non-Christians brings holiday time to spend with family and friends.

In case you are looking for some activities do over that period, here are some really good websites.

<http://theholidayspot.com>

Click on the Easter banner headline. Loads of activities, including Easter colouring pages, crafts, stories, the history of Easter, poems, fonts and online Easter cards.

<http://wiredforbooks.org>

Click on the Kids Corner to read Beatrix Potters "The tale of Peter Rabbit"(plus several other of her stories).

<http://www.kidsdomain.com>

Click on the "Plan for the holidays" section. Includes printable pages, egg decorating, games etc.

Other celebrations. Do you have a birthday or anniversary coming up? Has your child achieved something at school? We would love to hear from you and give that person a name mention.

Featured websites



Each month we will pick out some websites that we recommend. This months choices are:

<http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/resources/videos.htm>



This is a UK Special Needs schools website. They have made some cool switch operated videos set to music and are designed to help students understand and generalise cause and effect. My favourite is from the film Madagascar – “I like to move it”.

<http://www.poodlesuit.com/fun.html>



“Angel in a poodle suit” is one of Edith's favourite sites – we think she has a crush on Andre. This link takes you to some of Andre poodle's colouring pages and poodle songs.

http://www.dole5aday.com/Kids/K_Home.jsp



We hear so much about kids becoming overweight these days, so it's nice to find a site that encourages kids to eat their fruit and veggies in a fun way. The Dole fruit '5 a day' website has games, recipes, trivia, nutrition charts and even songs!

Easy recipe

Just had to share this recipe – my son Sam (aged 13) recently won the Nelson regional final “Great Kiwi sandwich” competition at Woolworths with it!

Ingredients

- 1 pack of Tofu 250g
- 1 bread stick baguette
- 4 slices of tomato
- 4 thin slices of gold kumara
- 4 slices cucumber

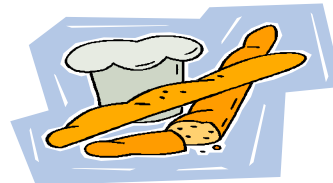
Marinade:

- 2 teaspoons of ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon of garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon of hot English mustard
- 2 tablespoons of soy sauce

Method

Cut the tofu into 4 equal slices and dip in the marinade.
Fry the slices of kumara and tofu in a little oil until cooked (3 – 5 minutes).
The kumara should be soft and the tofu crisp.
Slice the baguette into 4 sandwiches and spread with butter or mayonnaise.
Put the tomato, kumara and cucumber in the bread in a traffic light formation.
Place the tofu next to the “traffic lights”
Serve immediately.

The finalists had to cook their entries in the store! Sam won a sandwich press, groceries, and cookery book.



Have you an easy recipe you'd like to share? Please send them to newsletter@realspecial.co.nz

Personal experiences

If you have a story to tell that you feel would be of help to others, we would love to hear it. Below is the inspirational story of a land police officer, diagnosed with a brain tumour, trying to ensure that in New Zealand get the best drug treatments available.



Illness can strike any one of us. 36-year-old policeman and father of two Dave

Bowman was diagnosed with a terminal brain tumour in January 2005, with a prognosis of only 6 - 12 months. Specifically, he has a Glioblastoma Multiforme Brain Tumour Grade IV - the worst type.

Last Thursday "InSide New Zealand" showed a documentary followed the 12 months since then. Dave and his family have not only had to battle the disease to try to find a cure, but also the New Zealand health system. He discovered a breakthrough drug Temozolomide is being used to successfully in Toronto, but although it is available in New Zealand, it is unsubsidized. The failure of Pharmac to fund the drug means patients like Dave are paying up to \$6,500 a month to access it so he has started a campaign to bring awareness to this.

Because of Dave's work Pharmac have now changed some to the funding rules, but sadly Dave still does not get a subsidy. His family have set up a website to raise awareness and funds. The site also has lots of information on this condition.

www.headstart.org.nz



Letters and tips

These tips help answer, "What strategies can I use with challenging behaviour?" The full version of this article can be found on our FAQ page or the ihc website.

www.ihc.org.nz/school/behaviour.asp

Approaches need to be chosen based on your knowledge of the child.

- Identify hints and clues as to when the child is stressed
- Redirect/guide to alternative activities
- Remind children about rules
- Solve Problems/Negotiate Solutions
- Make children feel important and respected
- Provide for success
- Establish routines and clear expectations
- Give praise/build self esteem
- Teach about calming activities
- Change the environment
- Express feelings
- Vary activities
- Establish environmental factors
- Respond to the body clock
- Acknowledge children's temperaments
- Offer choices within limits
- Use repetition

Useful products: See the Feelings Book on our Autism page and selected DVD's on the Behaviour page.



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Just for fun

Jokes

Q. What did one eye said to the other eye?
A. Between you and me, something smells.

Q. Have you heard the joke about the dustbin lorry?
A. No? Don't worry, it's only a load of rubbish.

Q. Why couldn't the girl open the piano lid?
A. The keys were inside.

Q. Have you heard about the silly person who keeps going around saying "no"?"
A. No? Oh, so it's you.

Q. What do cats eat for breakfast?
A. Mice Crispies.

Riddles

Q. What two things can't you have for breakfast?
A. Lunch and dinner.

Q. What cheese is made backwards?"
A. Edam.

Q. What's got four legs and one foot?
A. A bed.

Q. What month do people eat least?
A. February

Q. What runs but never walks?
A. Water.

If you've got a favourite joke or riddle, why not send it to us for the newsletter.



Useful inks

We want Real Special to be a useful resource so are setting up links with other professionals, resource sites, charity organisations etc. If you are interested in becoming one of our links, please send details to newsletter@realspecial.co.nz

Thanks to those private tutors and organizations who have already sent details. These will be added in the Assessment section soon.

with the poodle

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. I love clothes and am always looking for new designs.

Competition. I now have a competition for you to design me an outfit - click on the poodle logo on our home page. Each month the winner will receive some pencils.

Winner! The winner for February was Katelynn Murphy of Upper Moutere - I love the flower motifs on the shorts and tee-shirt she designed.

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