

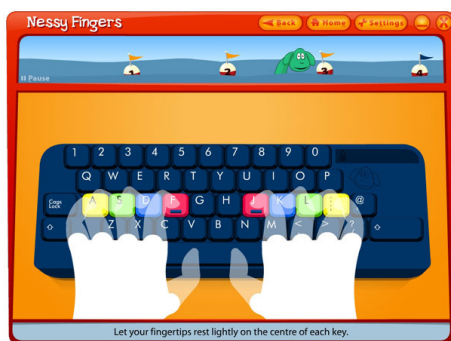


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**Win Nesy Fingers!**

This month we have one copy of Nesy Fingers(touch typing) to win plus all entrants get free postage off their next order (saving \$5!). Closes 31.03.09



Entry is free – just write a few words about the product you bought from us or about our service or advice and send to: [carole@realspecial.co.nz](mailto:carole@realspecial.co.nz)

**Winner:** The winner of our Christmas draw was: F Moore, Auckland.

**Easy ordering:** we now have a printable order form on the left side of homepage

**4 New Products from the UK!**

**Sounds and Rhymes software**

This is a collection of phonic exercises. Starting with single sounds and culminating in the identification of rhyming words, a progression of tasks aims to develop recognition of short vowels and automatic response to sounds within words. Includes over 16 learning activities. The skills taught range from vowel sounds to consonant blends.

**Soapbox Spelling**

Soapbox has been designed for the practice of spelling. It helps learning by emphasising the relationship between the spelling pattern and vowel sound through vowel matching games. Comprehensive recorded word lists have been included plus it is simple to add your own.

**Come Alive Phonics: Playing with Sounds and letters**

This CD (suitable for computers and interactive whiteboards) uses songs, movement, words and pictures, to adopt a multisensory approach to learning sounds and letters. Visual, auditory and kinaesthetic teaching combine in activities that are highly effective for young children learning letter shapes and sounds.

**Lucid Reading Booster**

From Lucid comes a new program that enables children (7 – 14) to improve: reading and listening comprehension, understanding of complex texts, inferential thinking skills, verbal memory skills and reasoning, concentration and attention, vocabulary knowledge and reading speed.

Expansion pack also available.

**SEE READING AND SPELLING SECTION FOR NEW PRODUCTS!**

**Nesy special price**

The popular Nesy Learning programme teaches reading, writing, spelling and improved memory. It comprises of 12 online games and over 1,500 printable resources, including worksheets and games with no printing restrictions. Save over \$20, now only \$300 + GST!

### Featured websites



**This months choices are;**

**Free websites from Google**  
**Free help for sports organisers**  
**Free drawing lessons**

#### **NZSport.co.nz**

This site gives free "tools" to sport organizers including group text allowing you to keep in touch with all members by sending just one txt message. You can also have an online profile page to add photos, blogs, comments and information, plus it also makes your Club or Team searchable online so new members can find you.

Also included are: Sports nutrition advice, forum, advice on trying new sports, sports news and blogs, plus searchable data bases to find where clubs and teams are located.

<http://www.nzsport.co.nz/>



### Free website from Google

Google Sites is a free and an easy way to create and share webpages, collect all your information in one place, plus control who can view and edit. Google say the programme has a single-click page creation plus there is no HTML required .

Just put the words "Google sites" in the Google search bar and it will be top search that comes up.



### Free drawing lessons

Artist Brenda Hoddinott has created this great website that gives pages and page of free drawing lessons! The lessons are categorised for different levels: Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced so there is something for all ages and ability.

There are an extensive number of topics including Shading, Cartoons, Animals and Fantasy, Faces and figures, Caricature, Perspective etc  
[www.drawspace.com](http://www.drawspace.com)



**Edith the poodle**

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. Although it has been very warm through the day here, at night it can get a little chilly. This baggy "Barbie pink" top is comfy enough to wear at any time of day or night and looks so good with my colouring!



As this is the first newsletter this year, I thought I would share my New Years resolutions with you. I think these are probably ones my family would like me to keep but unfortunately I have not been doing well with them so I have started again since the Chinese New Year – now technically I've only been breaking them for a few days!

**New Year's resolutions for dogs**

- I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.
- I will stop trying to find the few remaining pieces of clean carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.

- We do not have a doorbell. I resolve I will not bark each time I hear one on TV.
- I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc. or anything else horribly smelly (especially when I've just had a bath).
- I will not steal underwear and socks then dance all over the garden with them.

**Sudoku**

The Sudoku grid has three main elements. There are 9 columns, 9 rows and 9 blocks.

Using the numbers 1 through 9, the 81 squares in the grid must be filled so that every column, row and block contains the numbers 1 through 9. No number can repeat within any column, row or block.

Good luck! The solution is on page 4 of this newsletter

	4					7	6
3							
		7	6	1		8	4
				2	6	3	
		9	4	6	7		
	1	6	9				
1		3		6	4	2	
							7
6	5					8	

### Easy recipe "No cook" Chocolate Dessert

As Valentines Day is coming up, why not make this great tasting, but so easy "no cook" dessert? You may even have the perfect ingredients for it left over from Christmas, e.g. nuts and dried fruits.



#### Ingredients:

A 250g block of eating chocolate.  
½ cup of dried fruit, chopped  
50g butter  
½ of a 395g tin of condensed milk  
70g packet of nuts  
toppings (optional)

#### Method

Cut the fruit into small pieces and mix with the chopped nuts.  
Melt the chocolate, butter and the half tin of condensed milk together (this can be done in a pan over boiling water or in the microwave)  
Add the fruit and nuts to the chocolate mixture and stir well.  
Quickly pour into either a lined cake or brownie tin.  
Smooth it down then add any toppings whilst the mixture is still warm.  
Leave to set in the fridge.  
Remove from the tin and cut into slices or squares (a knife warmed in hot water then dried helps).

This recipe makes twice the amount shown in the photo. I used plain chocolate, dried chopped up plums for the fruit with chopped walnuts and topped them with white chocolate melts for contrast.

### Here are some other ideas to try:

Different flavours and colours of chocolate, i.e. milk, dark, white flavoured chocolate  
Use variations of nuts, e.g. chopped walnuts, slivered almonds, pistachio  
Replace the nuts with pieces of crushed biscuits  
For the dried fruit, try apricots, plums, dates, sultanas, figs etc  
Topping ideas are nuts, chocolate melts, shredded coconut, cherries lollies/sweets etc  
The great thing is the chocolate will take on the shape of any container – if you have a heart shaped mould it would be a perfect Valentine dessert!

### Sudoku solution (from page 3)

5	4	1	2	8	9	3	7	6
3	6	8	5	4	7	9	2	1
9	2	7	6	1	3	8	5	4
4	8	5	1	7	2	6	3	9
2	3	9	4	5	6	7	1	8
7	1	6	9	3	8	5	4	2
1	7	3	8	6	4	2	9	5
8	9	4	3	2	5	1	6	7
6	5	2	7	9	1	4	8	3

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