

## Real Special Times

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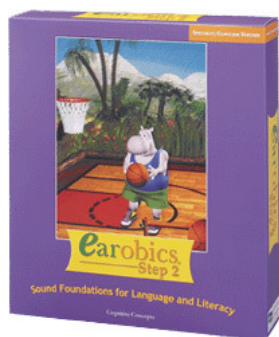
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### **Real Special News**

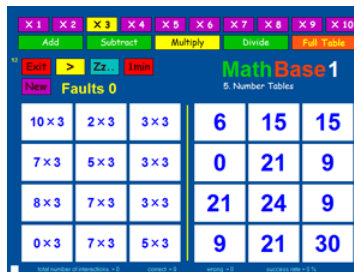
**Earobics prices:** The good news is that, despite being warned this was imminent by our suppliers, prices for Earobics are not being increased this month! Earobics is a great product for developing phonological awareness, reading and listening skills, and memory. It comes in versions for ages 4 – 7, 7 – 10, and 10+ to adults. There are two kinds – one for home use and one for schools etc. For more details, see our 'Reading and Spelling' sections.



### **New Product**

**MathBase 1:** You may remember that some time ago, we offered people the chance to try out Mathbase 1, a product we had brought back with us from the Special Needs conference we attended in Islington, UK last October. Well, the feedback we got was that people really loved it so we are now going to be selling it in New Zealand!

**Mathbase 1** is suitable for both younger children and older children with special needs difficulties in all aspects of number. Most of the people who tested this for us were working in high schools and said it really helped older students.



There are 5 parts to the software (programme 5 is a new to this disk). Programmes 1,2,3 deal with the concept of whole number and its representations:

Prog. 1 covers numbers to 10,  
Prog. 2 deals with numbers to 20,  
Prog. 3 covers numbers to 100,

Programmes 4 and 5 provide structured practice in the four number operations:  
Prog. 4 teaches about number bonds  
Prog. 5 has exercises for timestables.

The software is dual language English / French. The home user version is only \$50 NZD + GST, plus don't forget we give free courier postage within NZ!

As the school version is not yet available in New Zealand, the manufacturers have allowed us to sell this version to schools – normally they would have to purchase a much more expensive licence so this is a great deal! See our website maths section for more details. Windows compatible only.

### Featured websites



This month's choices will give you something to check out during the chilly New Zealand school holidays.

#### [www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)

As in the book, this website has different categories of fascinating world records, including 'The Human Body', 'Amazing feats', and 'the Natural World'. There are definitely some records that should come with the warning "Don't try this at home!". Incidentally, the most tattooed person in the world, known by the name of Lucky Diamond Rich, was born in New Zealand.



#### [www.foldoc.org](http://www.foldoc.org)

If computer terms such as gigabyte and defragment are a different language to you (and me!) find out what they mean from the free online dictionary of computing (foldoc).



#### <http://www.i-love-dogs.com>

This "I love dogs" website has been chosen by Edith. As you can guess by its name, it has all sorts of stuff about dogs, including dog breeds, dog games and software. Edith particularly liked the fact you could download a free online dog cookbook of dog food recipes! There is even a section on the meaning of dog names. We checked out Edith's name and it apparently means "joyous" - very appropriate!



#### [www.nationmaster.com](http://www.nationmaster.com)

Last but not least of July's websites is one all about statistics. You can check out any country in the A-Z list, plus it has sections covering such things as the flags of the world, an encyclopedia, and a whole section of maps. A great source for homework, research and also lots of general trivia in the factoid section. For instance, did you know that the average person in the United Kingdom drinks as much tea as 23 Italians!



**Edith the poodle**

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. Well, the weather here has been so cold that I have needed to wear a woolly sweater. This gorgeous red number with cable patterns shows up so well against my white fur and was knitted for me by my Auntie Kath!



There has not been much to tell you about the ducks (except that Mary has still not come back) so instead I thought I would share this really funny "smart poodle" story with you.

A wealthy old lady went on a photo safari in Africa, taking her faithful poodle along. One day the poodle got lost in the jungle and noticed a hungry leopard heading rapidly in her direction.

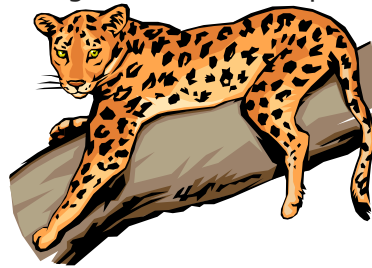
The smart poodle had a thought. Noticing some bones on the ground close by, she immediately began to chew on them. Just as the leopard was about to leap, the poodle exclaimed loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the leopard ran away saying, "Whew that was close! That poodle nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, decided to tell the leopard so that he might get in his favour.

The leopard was furious at being made a fool of and said, "Here, monkey, hop on my back and we will go and get that poodle"

The poodle saw the leopard coming with the monkey but instead of running, she sat down with her back to them, pretending she hadn't seen them. Just when they got close enough to hear, she said, "Where's that monkey got to? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!"



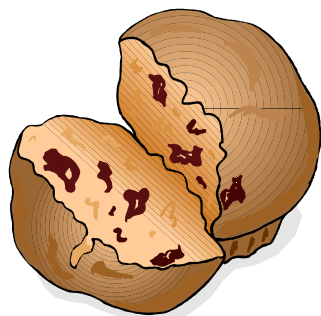
**Sudoku (solution on page 4)**

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.

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

### Easy muffin recipe

This basic recipe is really easy to do but makes really moist muffins. It can have lots of different things added to it so is very versatile – it's a great addition to any morning tea!



### Ingredients

1 ½ cups Self Raising Flour  
¾ cup of milk  
¾ cup of sugar  
1 egg  
¼ cup of oil

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°
2. Put the dry ingredients in a bowl.
3. Put the wet ingredients in a jug e.g give the eggs a quick stir to break them, then add the oil, milk
4. Mix the wet and dry ingredients together in the bowl. Don't over-mix, just combine otherwise they are not as light.
5. Spoon into a well-greased muffin tray
6. Cook for 20 minutes (keep checking after 15 minutes as I find the average time is around 18 mins in my oven).
7. Cool on a wire rack.

Makes between 9 – 12 muffins, depending on whether you are adding extras such as apples etc.

### Muffin Variations

#### Banana and chocolate chip

To the basic mixture add 1 Banana (ripe & mashed with a fork) and ½ cup of chocolate chips

#### Apple

Peel, chop, and cook some apples – you need it to make about 1 – 1 ½ cups of cooked apples, or tinned apple works just as well. Add that to the basic mixture.

#### Lemon

Make the basic muffin mixture but when you take them out of the oven and they are still warm, brush them liberally with lemon juice. While still wet, sprinkle sugar over them.

### Sudoku solution (from page 3)

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

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