

Real Special Times

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Real Special News

Our recent visit to the Special Needs conference in the UK went really well - check out this and future newsletters for some great products we will be stocking.

Free UK maths software product - 10 only to give away!

MathBase1 is a collection of 4 easy to use programs that provide unlimited practice of elementary maths skills. Programs 1, 2 and 3 deal with the representation and understanding of whole number to 10, 20 & 100. Program 4 'Number Bonds' provides structured practice in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It is suitable for primary aged students and older students with maths learning difficulties. We have 10 Home user copies to give away – normal price will be \$60 + GST. What's the catch? No cost, but we just want your feedback and thoughts on the product. If you would like one, please email: info@realspecial.co.nz
 Sorry, strictly first come, first served.
 Windows only.

New Products (see section on website)

At the conference, we were thrilled to see the following two new software products. Designed by Educational Psychologists - you can use the material to: Support behaviour targets on an Individual Education Plan, get a difficult group or class to work towards a common goal, reinforce school or classroom rules, record an individual's progress, and increase motivation

Visual Timetable

Use this software to make quick and simple visual prompts for students who have difficulty following the structure of school life.



\$100 + GST. Windows only.

Behaviour TrackMaker

This software provides a visual script for children to help them with their behaviour. Ideal for supporting personalised behaviour targets through visual prompts.



\$100 + GST. Windows only.

The above two products will also be listed in "Special Needs" category - Behaviour Page on website

Type to Learn

Built on a proven typing curriculum of sequential, skills-building instruction, it integrates lessons, activities that teach keyboarding skills. Excellent for all, but especially those with dyslexia who find writing difficult. See "Writing" section of website. Single User CD and Manual \$160 + GST, School pack - (5 CD's and manuals) \$551.10 + GST. Ages 6 – adult. Windows and Mac.



Featured websites



<http://www.neopets.com>

Want to try out having a virtual pet before deciding whether to get the real thing? Very useful for seeing just how much work is involved in feeding and caring for a pet. Even if you have a “real animal”, Neopets are a great fun thing to have whatever your age. You can feed your Neopet, play with it, go for an adventure around Neopia, and play over **160** games and more.



<http://www.afb.org/braillebug/>

Ever wondered how blind people learn to read? The Braille Bug website helps you learn all about the Braille system of writing used by the blind, through games, secret messages, and a reading club. The site contains information about Louis Braille and also Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf. Are you curious about some aspect of Helen Keller's life, and haven't been able to find the answer to your question? You can actually ask Keller Johnson-Thompson, (Helen's great-grandniece) a question through the website!



www.scrapbookflair.com

Are you interested in scrap booking? This site has items for both beginners and advanced levels of all ages, and what's more it has some wonderful free downloads! Click on the “Downloads” link at the top of the home page and enjoy the free digital scrapbook software with embellishments, backgrounds and design templates.



<http://www.funwithspot.com/>

For younger children, check out the website of “Spot”, based on the books of Eric Hill. They will enjoy playing these games and reading the animated versions of some of the books. Full of games and activities which entertain whilst helping children to develop basic literacy, numeracy, computer skills and much more! Also includes advice and resources for parents and teachers. Shock wave plug-in required.



Edith the poodle

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. Well, I thought I would put on my cheerleader costume to welcome back my mum and dad (Carole and Tony) from their UK trip. This costume is from the USA but I thought it would be fitting for such a celebration!



Before my parents went away, they had me micro chipped so that if I decided to go looking for them and got lost, then anyone taking me to a vets etc would know where I live. I was worried that it might hurt but I didn't feel a thing – I never even made a little whimper! It doesn't cost that much to have done – you can elect to go on your local district register, or for a little more cost, can go on the register for the whole of NZ and Australia. If any pets have become lost this month after running away from the noise of fireworks etc, the "chips" should help in re-uniting them with their owners.

Did you know the SPCA (Society for the Protection of Animals) has a page on their website where you can download "lost pets" posters for dogs and cats? Very useful. And if you luckily haven't lost a pet, it is still worth checking out the page. There are some great animal posters you can print off, some digital postcards, and desktop animal wallpapers to look at.

The wallpapers include pictures of dogs, kittens, cows, ducks, horses and rabbits!
<http://www.rspca.org.nz/resources/resources.html>

Also on the SPCA website are other items of interest, such as the "Smarter than Jack" books. These are inspiring animal tales books and they would make great Christmas presents. For each one sold, the SPCA gets half the money so you would be helping a great cause. They are also looking for stories of smart animals to include in their next book – if you've got a smart pet, why not start writing now?
<http://www.rspca.org.nz/smarterthanjack.html>

Sudoku for November

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.

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

Recipe - Self crusting easy quiche

Quiche is great to have either hot or cold. If the thought of making pastry has put you off trying to make it, this recipe magically does that part of it for you!

Ingredients:

3 eggs
 1 ½ cups of milk
 1 ½ cups of melted butter
 1 cup of grated cheese (e.g. cheddar)
 1 ½ cups self raising flour
 1 cup of filling (see below)

Filling:

You can choose your own favourite, but some suggestions are:

1 grated courgette (also known as Zucchini) or
 1 cup of frozen vegetables, such as cauliflower and broccoli mix or
 1 cup of frozen mixed vegetables, e.g. sweet corn, carrots and peas.

Method

Mix all the “wet” ingredients together in a jug i.e. the eggs, milk, butter.

Mix all the “dry” ingredients together in a bowl i.e. the flour, cheese and filling

Now blend together both the wet and dry mixtures and stir thoroughly.

Pour the mixture into a greased ovenproof dish.

Cook for 45 minutes (in a pre-heated oven) for approximately 45 minutes, in a moderate oven, i.e. 180°C, 350°F, gas mark 4

**Sudoku solution (from page 3)**

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

Just for fun

Q: What type of sandals do frogs wear? A: Open-Toad!!

Q: What did the well mannered sheep say to his friend at the field gate?

A: After ewe!

Q: What do you give a pony with a cold?

A: Cough Stirrup!

Riddles:

Q. What's full of holes but still holds water?

A. A sponge!

Q. What is light as a feather, but even the strongest person cannot hold it for 10 minutes?

A. Your breath!

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