



## REAL SPECIAL TIMES



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### **Real Special News – FREE stuff!**

#### **FREE NZ scenic calendars**

As a thank you with all orders placed between now and the end of December, we will include a **free** 2008 New Zealand scenic calendar with each purchase. As Christmas approaches, why not consider buying computer software that is not only fun for the kids but will also help them achieve academic success and give them a truly Happy New Year!

#### **Some ideas for Christmas presents from our website**



#### **Products under \$100 (inc GST)**

Mathbase 1 Home version - \$56  
Nessy Games Player - \$67  
Reward maps (behaviour motivator) – \$78.75  
Reward track – \$78.75  
Rule Posters - \$78.75  
Lucid Memory Booster (Home) - \$90  
Bridge to English (English lessons for ESOL students) - \$73

#### **Products under \$200 (inc GST)**

Visual Timetable - \$112.50  
Behaviour Trackmaker - \$112.50  
Timestables Maths- \$112.50  
Earobics (Home version) - \$130  
Type to learn - \$180  
Nessy Brainbooster - \$145  
Lucid Memory Booster (School) - \$161  
Wordshark - \$195  
Numbershark - \$175

### **FREE Nessy 'e book'**

Go to [www.nessytales.co.uk](http://www.nessytales.co.uk) and click on the 'Download Nessy Tales free' link and get a free 'e-story' about Muggins the dog (in either a Mac or PC version) The site also includes some free story resources.

### **FREE Nessy upgrades**

If you have Nessy or GamesPlayer, you can now download new upgrades from the links on our webpages.

### **FREE Lexion upgrade**

The age range of the Lexion programme now goes from pre-school to "secondary" age students, up to 16 years. This upgrade disk is available free to all existing and new Lexion purchasers. For use specialist language teachers, SPELD, SLT's etc, Lexion assesses the student's problems in those with dyslexia, aphasia and other language disorders then automatically generates the exercise needed to help. It also includes two Mini Lexions so students can work on other computers at school or home.

### **New Nessy Typing Product – coming this month**

Nessy Fingers Touch Typing is due for release this month. Suitable from age 8 upwards, it helps students improve spelling and keyboard skills. It has 9 fantastic games (all Nessy games have great graphics). Key positions are taught in the sequence of the alphabet for rapid learning in just 5 short lessons! Using a multisensory learning environment, the nine levels of difficulty allow all abilities to succeed. Home user versions will be only be \$67 including GST. Multi user network school versions available.

### Featured websites



This month's choices are:

[www.everythingpreschool.com](http://www.everythingpreschool.com) – free early years resources

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) – free educational 'arcade type' flash games

[www.yourdictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com) – free dictionary, puzzles and foreign language translation

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

As Preschool education has been given a real emphasis in new Zealand, I have been checking the internet for some more ideas and free resources.

Everythingpreschool.com contains over 30,000 early childhood education ideas separated into over 100 themes, 26 Alphabet idea sections, plus lesson plans. Each topic, e.g. Circus, gives you a whole range of resources such as songs, games, art and science ideas, colouring pages etc.

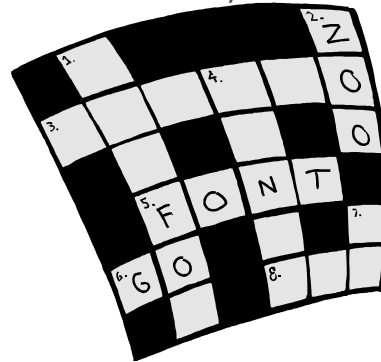


[www.yourdictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com)

YourDictionary is a free online English dictionary which gives you definitions, thesaurus entries, spelling, pronunciation, and etymology results for your word. In addition it provides resources to help you find the best dictionary and translation sites for hundreds of other languages.

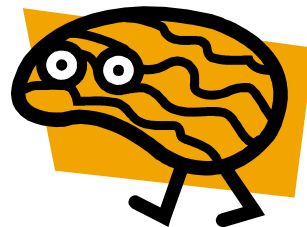
Really fun items on the site include: How to write your name in 14 languages, Wordgames and Puzzles, and Crosswords,

Other useful resources in the dictionary include converters, free translation links and acronym finders.



[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

This is an excellent fun, but really educational, website. Check out the "Flash Arcades" section for some great games – I really liked the 'Reading Section' game "Mad Libs Junior" where kids have to fill in the story blanks with verbs, adjectives, nouns etc and at the end you can then print it off.



**Edith the poodle**

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. How do you like my fancy dress costume? It is a hula outfit, sent to me by friends in the USA - very appropriate as I have just been on the beach for a "Light" party.



I am writing this on 31 October and there are lots of parties going on – some for Halloween and others are called 'Light' parties for those who do not like the "scary" part of Halloween but still want to

enjoy themselves. It is a great way to get members of the community together to enjoy themselves and to provide an alternative to children knocking on the doors of strangers as this can be potentially dangerous. I have put a link below for those who might want to find out about these parties.

<http://www.lightparty.org/>

There is another celebration coming up this week that can also be scary – especially for pets. Yes, you've guessed it – I'm talking about "Bonfire" night. This tradition started in England over 400 years ago to celebrate a failed plot by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill King James 1<sup>st</sup>. The delighted King ordered bonfires to be lit all over the country and this tradition has carried on. Fireworks are used to represent the gunpowder and the

'scarecrow-like' figures put on the fires are named "Guy's". Bonfires and fireworks can both be very frightening and dangerous to animals so I will definitely be staying in on that night! The one good about any kind of party is that there is lots of food around – on the back page of this newsletter is recipe for some good bonfire toffee. If you want to find out more about Bonfire night etc, there is a really good website that tells kiwi kids all about some of the historical traditions that were brought to New Zealand when people emigrated here from Britain. <http://www.britain4kiwikids.org.nz/bizare/fawkes.html>

**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.

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

### Easy recipe - Hokey Pokey

Looking for something to eat at your Guy Fawkes bonfire? Hokey Pokey is just perfect! I had never heard of hokey Pokey until I came to New Zealand but it tastes very similar to sticky Cinder toffee which is a traditional toffee eaten on Bonfire night (but is Hokey Pokey even easier to make!). The way the baking soda reacts with the mixture looks like a mini volcano so this is a really popular thing for kids to watch being made. This toffee is so easy to make and so tasty that it is good for eating all year round – during summer it is fantastic crumbled on top of ice-cream!



### Ingredients

5 tablespoons white sugar  
2 tablespoons golden syrup  
1 teaspoon baking soda

### Method

Grease or butter a shallow sided baking tin before starting cooking.  
Put sugar and golden syrup into a saucepan.  
Heat gently on a low heat, stirring constantly until sugar dissolves and to stop it sticking (wooden spoons are best for this).  
Increase the heat and bring to the boil.

Boil for only two minutes (use a timer to check this!).  
To prevent the mixture burning or sticking, give it an occasional stir.  
Remove the mixture from heat.  
Add the baking soda.  
(Now for the fun part!) - stir the baking soda quickly until mixture froths up.  
Pour the frothy mixture into the greased or buttered tin immediately.  
Leave until it has gone cold and set hard.  
Break into pieces then eat and enjoy!

### Sudoku solution (from page 3)

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

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