



March 2010 : Issue #4

# Cheeky MONKEY

PRACTICAL PARENTING SUPPORT

## FORUM TIP— THE CHAT ROOM by Sharyn

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Lukas 2 months old, having giggles and laughs on the couch while Mummy makes silly faces and noises.

### REGULAR FEATURES

- Question of the Day
- Website of the Day
- The Daily Brainteaser
- Gizza Peek @ (weekly themed photo thread)
- Wednesday's Weekly Chat Night, 8:30pm onwards
- Bridget's Week Day Wonders
- Forum Games
- Poll of the Week
- Caption of the Day

### CHEEKY MONKEY BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Big congratulations to Ange and family on the safe arrival of their baby boy! Zeke Nathan McKinlay was born on the 29th of January weighing 9lb 8oz and 56 cm long.

Also congratulations to Kush and family on the birth of their baby boy! Azariah was born on the 24th of February at home, weighing 6lb 3.5oz.

This month, since we noticed the chat room isn't so well used, we decided to do a 'how-to' on the Chat Room itself!

We all hope you have noticed that when you visit Cheeky Monkey, there is a menu bar along the top of the screen, underneath the wee monkey logo. In this menu you will see one option, that is called "Galleria" and has "Get To Know Us" underneath. This is a drop down menu, so when you hover over it you will see two more options appear, the Gallery and the Chat Room.

We will look at the Gallery next month as that's a big one!

This time, we want to talk about the Chat Room and how it works!

Firstly you need to be signed into Cheeky Monkey before you open the Chat Room as it uses your same login information.

When you click on the Chat Room it can take a minute to initialize, this is normal and fine!

Once it has loaded, you will see the names of all the other people in the room on the right, and below that the

names of the other rooms. On the left, is where messages show and the bottom left is where you can type your messages to everyone else in the room.

Just like on the forum, you can type publicly in chat, or you can choose to privately chat with one person by clicking on their name and choosing to Private Message them - then another smaller chat window will show up for that private conversation.

There are many options for you to customize your chat by clicking Options on the message box. From themes and colours, to text colours, to sounds, you can customize the room to suit you and it will remember those settings any time you return until you change them!

So next time you login, if you haven't already, check out the Chat Room and don't forget our weekly chat's with Fay on a Wednesday night at 8.30pm where she hosts an always interesting chat session.....

You can see who is in the Chat Room anytime too, by looking on the left side of the forum, under "Who Is Online" so feel free to pop in anytime you want to chat and I bet you will have company before you know it! We are a very chatty bunch!

### MAKE YOUR OWN LIQUID HAND SOAP

- 1 bar of soap
- 3 litres of boiling water

- Grate the soap.  
- Cover with the boiling water and stir until dissolved.  
- Leave to set.

- Once set, stir up and store in containers until needed.

Makes 3 litres.

A super quick and easy recipe plus a great money saver.

This recipe and other great recipes can be found in the Domestic Goddess and Recipe Bin sections of the forum.

### TOP 10 BOOKS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

by Kristy

1. Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Dairy by Lynley Dodd
2. Cat In The Hat by DR. Seuss
3. Horton Hears A Who! by DR. Seuss
4. Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
5. Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
6. Tale Of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
7. One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by DR. Seuss
8. Why Do Dogs Sniff Bottoms? by Mcmillan and Signal
9. Sharing a Shell by Julia Donaldson
10. Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

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## EASTER JOKES

Hmmmm ..... LOL

**Q: Why do we paint Easter eggs?**

A: Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them!

**Q: What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards?**

A: A receding hareline.

**Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?**

A: Bugs Bunny

**Q: Why is Easter like whipped cream and a cherry?**

A: Because it's always on a sundae!

**Q: What kind of jewelry do rabbits wear?**

A: 14 carrot gold.

**Q: What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?**

A: He cracked up.

**Q: Why can't a rabbit's nose be twelve inches long?**

A: Because then it would be a foot.

## CHOCOLATE COCONUT NESTS

Here is a quick and easy Easter recipe for decorating muffins and cupcakes.

- 200g dark chocolate
- 50g shredded coconut
- 21 mini coloured candy-coated easter eggs

- Melt the chocolate and set aside to cool slightly.
- Add the coconut and stir to combine
- On a large baking sheet place spoonfuls of the mixture about 4 cm in diameter.
- Use the back of a metal spoon to make a small dent in the centre of each nest, where eggs will sit.
- Fill nests with 3 eggs.
- Cool completely, then refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm.
- Place the nests on top of iced cupcakes or muffins.



# Cheeky MONKEY

## PRACTICAL PARENTING SUPPORT

## EASTER CRAFT - DYING EGGS

by Bridget

I remember as a child how intrigued I was with dyed eggs, which is why egg dyeing became one of my favourite activities to do with the kids in my class. But, yay, this year I will be able to dye eggs with my own daughter....I'm so excited!

There are so many different techniques and ideas out there for dyeing eggs, but here are some simple steps to creating some really awesome "easter" eggs with your kids.

First you'll need to hard boil your eggs. Make sure they are completely cool before you start dyeing them.

Next you'll need to get your dye ready. Find a bowl that will fit a whole egg in it. Combine 1/2 to 1 tblsp food colouring with 2 tsp vinegar. Add some water but remember not to fill the bowl too much....you don't want it to overflow once you place the egg in it!

From here on there are a few different things you can do:

\* Place an egg directly into the dye. The longer you leave it, the darker it will become.

\* Use wax crayons to decorate the egg before you place it in the dye (this is one of my favourites and the kids love it!)

Wrap rubber bands around the egg before you place it in the dye. Remove it when it is the colour you want and allow it to dry. Remove some of the bands then place it into a second colour dye.

Remove all bands once the egg is dry.

Now here is a slightly different method to make marbled eggs. It might be a little messier but is just as easy and lots of fun!

\* Place a few cooled, hard boiled eggs in a colander in the kitchen sink.

\* Splash some vinegar over the eggs....not too much!

\* Drip some yellow food colouring over the eggs and then slightly agitate the colander. Once the colour has spread to your liking, allow the eggs to dry for about 30 seconds.

\* Repeat these steps with one or two more colours.

\* Once the final colour has set, rinse the eggs with water, let them drain for a couple of minutes, then allow them to air dry.



(Marbled Eggs found at <http://familyfun.go.com>)

## EASTER BISCUITS

Definitely not a recipe for those of us on a diet but oh so good.

### Ingredients:

- 2 ¼ cups flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 125 gram soft butter
- 2/3 cup sugar
- ½ cup currants
- ¼ cup mixed peel, finely chopped
- 1 egg

Icing sugar to dust (optional)

- Soften butter slightly if necessary.

- Beat the butter, sugar and egg until light and creamy.

- Sift flour, salt, baking powder and spices into mixture.

- Add currants and finely chopped mixed peel and mix well until the dough forms a ball.

- Roll the dough out between 2 sheets of non-stick baking paper to a 8 mm thickness.

- Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes and place on a baking tray.

- Bake for 12 to 15 minutes in a pre-heated oven of 180°C until very light brown.

- Cool down on a cake rack.

Optional: Dust biscuits with icing sugar before serving.

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### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SOCK

by Bronwyn

I'm a sock. Yep, no denying it. I'm a bona-fide, cotton-blend sock. Stripy, I might add. And a little soggy. Ah, the story of my life.

Let me tell you about today — a typical day in my life.

I belong to a small boy, who has a habit of chewing on everything. And I seem to be his favourite chew-toy. Well, me and the rest of my pals in the sock drawer. Last night, I was washed, hung out to dry (next to my best mate, who happens to be my identical twin), and then this morning I was wrapped around my best mate, in a big sock-cuddle. Aah, that's the best time of the day.

However, minutes later, our small boy owner got out of bed, and wandered into the lounge, where we were having a nice little tete-a-tete, on the top of the fresh washing pile. And then I suddenly found our lovely embrace was being moved to the inside of a toddler's mouth — charming. We held onto each other for dear life, but soon enough we

were ripped apart, and my poor best mate was discarded on the couch, far away from the comfort of the washing pile. I was chewed for a bit longer, before being dragged along the back of a cat (ugh, it's so hairy!), and then the small boy attempted to put me on his foot. Well, I suppose that's what my job is, but seriously — do you think it's nice to be wrapped around someone's foot all day?

Fortunately, the boy couldn't get me on his foot by himself, so he lost interest in me, and I was discarded on the floor, next to a mean looking plastic train.

I must have lost consciousness at this stage, because next thing I know, I'm warm and dry again, and all snuggled up to my best mate — thank goodness. However, it wasn't to last for long. I heard the small boy's mother asking him to find his shoes and socks, and before long I was plucked from my resting place, and chewed on. Again. It didn't last long though (just long enough for me to get a soggy leg), and then I was placed on the small boy's left foot. My best mate, I saw, was placed on his right foot — it's comforting

to know my mate's nearby, even if we can't chat easily when we're at work. A shoe was placed over me, and everything went dark. It seemed to get a little bumpy after that — I guess the small boy took us outside, off for a car ride, did a little running around, and then back in the car and home again. And off the foot I came — freedom! I wondered what was going to happen next — more soggy, perhaps? But no. I suddenly find myself near my best mate again, but not in a warm embrace on top of a clean washing pile. No. Instead, I find myself sitting atop a stinky nappy, inside a bucket. I pass out from the smell, but remember, before I pass out, that this is the precursor to being washed and hung out, and then being reunited with my best mate. And then the day starts all over again.

One day, just one day, I hope that our small boy owner will decide he's had enough of chewing us. Or maybe he'll just outgrow us, and we can retire to the fabled glory box of 'clothes for Model B' for a couple of years.

### MEL'S GARDEN

Tonight I made the yummiest mince patties for dinner! Thanks to my little garden I beefed them up with homegrown carrots, courgettes, spring onions and cherry tomatoes.

Each month I'm going to write about gardening. I am no expert (my lack of strawberries can vouch for that!) but I do know a few great gardeners who I can source great tips and tricks from!

This month I'm going to tell you about my garden. My little veggie garden is my pride and joy-but I never show it to any one (other than my mother) due to the fact that it's up a rather dangerous path. Thanks to living in Wellington my garden is very elevated, it over looks the roof of our two story place, that is up a long path. Building my garden took a lot of hard work. We have a

small flat section up top, but to begin with it wasn't garden worthy. The "soil" consisted of rocks and clay! So not only did I have to lug up piles of wood, I also had to lug up bags of soil!! I raised my seeds in egg cartons and seed raising mix before I transferred them up to the garden. Growing well for me this year are my, cherry tomatoes, beans, carrots, and the beetroot. My capsicum plant isn't as happy as the courgettes are taking over, and my peas-I don't know what happened to them! I think the cherry tomato plant smothered them, opps!

It was worth the hard work. I love my garden.

Right here are some tips for this month:

#### **Watering:**

Make sure you do not water your plants the heat of the day. Water droplets on the plant can magnify the sun's rays and burn leaves. Water first thing in the morning or in the

evening.

#### **What to be planting:**

Straight into the garden you can plant:

Carrots, Beetroot, Broad beans, Parsnips, Peas, Radish, Rocket, Silverbeet and Turnips.

Plant in seed trays now then plant out the seedlings of:

Onions, Lettuce, Leeks, Broccoli, and Cabbage.

Oh and I just got this in an email (I'm not much of a flower grower-but for the rest of you).

*Bulbs are bright and beautiful and we often think about planting them once we see them flowering in the spring — sadly it's too late to plant then, you need to plant NOW!*

#### **Enjoy your gardening!**



Your children are grown up when they stop asking you where they came from and refuse to tell you where they are going.  
- Anon

A three year old child is a being who gets almost as much fun out of a fifty-six dollar set of swings as it does out of finding a small green worm.  
- Bill Vaughan

Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead ought to tell a child to go to bed.  
- Robert Gallagher

The only thing worth stealing is a kiss from a sleeping child.  
- Joe Houldsworth

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