

Where Dreams Come True

There's a magical land, not so far away, that awaits discovery by the young children of San Diego. Filled with delightful toys, adorable fashions, a real pirate ship and fairy princess castle, Bears, Buddies & Toys is a dream come true for youngsters and those young at heart.

Opened in December 2006 by best friends Tami Hopkins and Rochelle Merrill-Herrera, Bears, Buddies & Toys is a clothing boutique ... and more! They feature popular brands such as Robeez, Cach Cach, Le Top, Greggy Girl and Mud Pie from preemie to girls' size 6x and boys' size 4.

Their toy collection reflects old-fashioned playthings that inspire imagination and creativity. Newborn nursery dolls from Lee Middleton are ready for adoption, or maybe your child's new best friend is one of the 45 different animals ready to be stuffed and taken home. In a separate library area, a new favorite bedtime story is just a bookshelf away.

Schedule your child's next birthday at Bears, Buddies & Toys and watch their eyes light up. The choices are many: sail away on the pirate ship, ride a magic carpet to the castle, dress-up in theme costumes, stuff and create an animal, or give them the royal treatment with the crown jewel party. Party packages and helpful hostesses make it fun for parents, too.

Take a trip over the rainbow to the Santee Trolley Center (9832 Mission Gorge Rd., Santee, 619-448-9008) and follow the yellow brick road to Bears, Buddies and Toys.



North County Family Fitness

North County Gymnastics and The Gymninny Kids has been a community fixture for 20 years. They are one of the most well-recognized gymnastics facilities in the area, primarily because of their commitment to customers and efforts to continually offer new and innovative classes.

Most classes are geared for children ages 18 months to 18 years, but some adult sessions are offered. In addition to their regular lineup of gymnastics training, camps and birthday parties, North County Gymnastics and The Gymninny Kids will be adding Boys' Extreme classes and camp, many innovative lesson plans including a "Meet the Robinsons" themed preschooler class, and cheer classes with Morgan McCamish, a former Boise State cheer captain and award winner.



The gym was recently accepted into the Character Counts program and is the only club in San Diego County to carry this designation. The company also holds memberships in the Better Business Bureau and North County, Poway and Carlsbad Chambers of Commerce.

Safety and experienced staff members are a top priority for owners, Liz Mullarkey and Rob Bryson. She holds a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's in sports management, and has more than 30 years experience teaching and coaching toddlers through Division I college athletes. Rob Bryson has been teaching in the preschool program for the past 20 years with a background in physical education and recreation department experience. Many of the 28 staff members have similar educational credentials and more than half of them have been with the company five years or longer. Both facilities are outfitted with quality equipment and safety measures to protect students.

North County Gymnastics and Gymninny Kids offer fun and fitness for all ages at two locations: Oceanside (760-941-0202) and Rancho Bernardo (858-451-0204). Check out their programs and classes by visiting www.gymninnykids.com. Sign up now and take advantage of their summer special: Buy 10 weeks of classes and get two classes free, plus a half-day of summer camp for free!

Building Fun One Block at a Time

After setting the highest attendance record ever seen at any LEGOLAND park in 2006, LEGOLAND® California is continuing its success with the addition of two new attractions in 2007, including the newly opened Miniland Las Vegas and Captain Cranky's Challenge which opened Memorial Day weekend. Miniland Las Vegas is built from more than 2 million LEGO bricks. The area features 10 different hotel properties, a miniature wedding chapel, monorails and real life sounds recorded in Las Vegas.

Captain Cranky's Challenge, is the fifth attraction to be added to Pirate Shores and joins the signature attraction Splash Battle, water-play areas Soak-N-Sail and Swabbies Deck, and a mini-flume log ride, Treasure Falls. Additional seating, more shade and locker facilities make Pirate Shores even more family friendly this summer.

Merlin Entertainments, LEGOLAND California's parent company, acquired all four LEGOLAND Parks in 2005 and has since become one of the largest attractions operators in the world. Fourteen new attractions have been added to LEGOLAND California in the last four years and with ongoing investment plans LEGOLAND is continuing to position itself as the preferred attraction choice for families with children.



ADVERTISERS IN THE NEWS!

Seaside Nannies Announces Their Exclusive Newborn Specialist!

After working in the San Diego childcare community for the last 10 years, Dara B. Green created Seaside Nannies Inc. to help San Diego families obtain quality childcare. Her personal approach to the challenging task of hiring a nanny allows families and nannies a hands-on approach to learning about each other, which not only benefits children and their parents, but the nannies as well.

Rather than meeting in an office setting, Green conducts



her interviews in the client's home to assess each family's unique dynamic.

Green, who has been recognized by KUSI-TV news as an "expert in her field," saw a desperate need for overnight care for new parents to adjust and transition their newborn into their lives.

Seaside Nannies is proud to announce that Debbie Fry will be joining the team as their exclusive "Newborn Specialist." Living in Arizona since 1985, Fry began working exclusively with children in the private sector in 2000. Currently, Fry specializes in overseeing all aspects of the care of newborns, as well as the important education of their parents in Arizona and California.

Fry's years of experience includes twins, triplets and special needs newborns. In addition, Fry has more than 14 years of experience within the rehabilitation field, serving individuals with a variety of disabilities including developmentally disabled, severely mentally ill and the elderly. She has been a direct caregiver in school, residential and employment-related settings.

Clients retain Debbie Fry's services for her expertise as well as her warm personality. For more information about retaining Fry's services, please visit www.seasidenannies.com or call 619-384-5505.

sandiegofamily.com