# Mini HILD THE REAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Create + Play

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WHAT'S INSIDE • SNAIL MAIL FOR KIDS • DIY: FELT FAIRY HOUSE · GLAMPING WITH KIDS MUCH MORE!

# FREE



# REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD!





# Create

Snail Mail For Kids | 1 Alternate Uses For Kids 'Artwork | 5 DIY: Felt Fairy House | 9 10 Things For The Mini Artist | 13 Creative Workshops For Busy Hands | 15

# Play

40 Days Of Summer Fun | 20 Glamping With Kids | 28 Pokémon Go Scavenger Hunt Kit | 32 Podcasts For Your Inner Creatives | 35 7 Storybook Family Holidays | 38 A Change Is As Good As A Holidays | 43



# Ed's Letter

Welcome to the CHILD Mags Create + Play issue. Its school holidays and soon we will be welcoming in the New Year (Happy 2017!), so it makes sense to dedicate this CHILD mini-mag to all things fun, creative and playful.

You may be heading off on holidays or having a family 'stay-cation'. Either, makes it the perfect time for exploring and delving into our hobbies and interests.

Looking for a family holiday to remember? How about one out of a storybook? Spend some time in the great outdoors and go glamping ('glamorous camping') with the kids or let them run wild on a Pokémon Go scavenger hunt.

Get all your child's amazing masterpieces together and try out some of our alternative uses for kids' artwork and introduce them to a forgotten form of communication – writing letters.

We hope you have a fun and inspiring December and January.

See you in the New Year! Happy creating!

xoxo Jenna

# SNAIL MAIL FOR KIDS: LET'S WRITE SOME LETTERS!

WORDS + STYLING JENNA TEMPLETON

# JENNA TEMPLETON SHARES SOME SNAIL MAIL Favourites to inspire your kids to put pen to Paper.

There's nothing better than finding a handwritten letter in the mailbox. A long time fan of all things snail mail, one of my favourite things to do on a weekend afternoon is to write letters to my pen pals around the globe. I even decorate each envelope and make its contents unique with handmade stationery and pretty collected paper ephemera included in the mix.

I was first introduced to having pen pals by my family. It was a great way to get to know and keep in contact with my cousins who lived in England. I'd get so excited when I received a new letter and enjoyed writing back just as much. Even today, snail mail is a big part of my life – I wrote a little publication about it.

It's always a fun challenge to see what I can get through the mail and it makes me so happy when I see photos of my overseas friends holding the very letter I mailed weeks ago.

Getting the kids involved with letter writing, crafting mail art and being part of the pen pal community is a great activity to explore. It can give the little ones excitement as they discover a long-lost form of communication in the days where social media rules the roost.



# HERE ARE A FEW TOOLS AND MATERIALS TO GET THE KIDS ENJOYING MANY HAPPY MAIL DAYS AHEAD:

# **Personalised Pencils**

There's nothing better than having your own personalised stationery to motivate you to write more.

# **Coloured Envelopes**

Different coloured envelopes make a happy greeting to your recipient when they open up their letterbox and see a pop of colour.

# Wooden Envelope Template

This will come in handy for making your own envelopes. Use different coloured paper or pretty patterned gift wrap for envelope making.

# Snail Mail by Michelle Mackintosh

Snail mail is about spreading love through handmade surprises sent by post.

# Washi Tape Set

One of my favourite craft tools and super handy for snail mail – you can decorate your envelopes with them or use to border and seal your letter.

Blue Little Mailbox

Use this sweet wooden mailbox to store all your mail sent by your friends and pen pals.

#### Border Label

Label the front of your envelope and use the centre to write your pen pal's postage address.

#### **Circle Stickers**

I love using these to decorate my mail. When heaps are used, it looks like a polka dot pattern – such a happy print.

#### Happy Mail Day by Jenna Templeton

A little publication I wrote and published all about my love of snail mail.

Happy Mail Day is your visual guide to decorating envelopes, mail art, making themed kits, handmade stationery, paper-craft techniques, DIYs and penning a letter.

#### Pen Pal Kit

Everything you need to send a letter to your pen friend. This cute set includes writing sheets, postcards, envelopes, stickers and more.

# ALTERNATE USES FOR

WORDS + STYLING JENNA TEMPLETON

# NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CHILD'S MASTERPIECES? HERE ARE SOME FUN IDEAS AND Alternative uses for your children's artwork.

There's only so much space on the fridge to display your kid's artwork. Not nearly enough to save everything that's too cute for the recycling bin. We've put our heads together to list all the ways they can be celebrated.

# Gift Wrap

Why not wrap up gifts with your child's artwork? I'm sure the grandparents will love it! It's so easy to lay down some white butcher's paper and let them just go for it (make sure to cover the size of the gift!). And we also love the idea of wrapping a bunch of flowers in a drawing like Wimke.

#### Make a Book

One of our fave ladies Kate Boadu of Jimmy Halfpenny came up with the genius idea of turning their children's art into a coffee table book! This easy-to-do mail service allows parents to send off their child's art and have it returned as a beautiful printed memento.

#### Gallery Wall

If you have a dedicated little artist in the family, who's always producing new work by the bucket loads, why not display their work in their rooms by creating a gallery wall? Attach rows of twine to the wall with thumb tacks and hang artworks across it using wooden or colourful pegs. Alternatively, you could bluetac a whole bunch to a blank wall space and use washi tape to make border frames.

## Cover books

I love the colourful randomness of kids' artwork – they're a pattern maker's dream! One of my favourite things to make is little notebooks, which I send to my pen pals. Your child might want to have a go at making their own notebooks using their art or using their work to cover their school books or art scrapbook.

# Decorate furniture

Put your hand up if you have some basic furniture from IKEA? Why not give furnishings a makeover or 'furniture hack' by covering the top of a storage unit, stool or wardrobe front with your child's paintings? Most local art stores own decoupage glue or 'mod podge', which enables you to coat paper material and easily glue it to furniture.

# Create a calendar

Most local printing and photo stores offer services to print photos onto a mug or calendar. All you have to do is scan your photos onto a USB or Smartphone and take them to your nearest photo developing shop to print onto everything from mugs, plates and calendars. This would make a great Christmas gift for a family member too!

# Keep a photo record

Have you heard about those #photoaday projects? You choose a topic and document with a photo a day, either uploading to Instagram or by documenting daily snaps on a blog. Your child might enjoy creating an artwork a day and documenting their creativity with photos, in a scrapbook or on a blog.

# Turn drawings into toys

How amazing would it be to turn your child's drawings into soft toys? Well thanks to Happy Softies, you can! I wish this was available when I was a tot – I would've loved to see my creations come to life, and be my best friends!

## Tattoos

This one is for parents! Have you seen those awesome parents that have been celebrating their children's creativity by getting their child's masterpieces tattooed for keeps? Props to them!





# GET THE KIDS TOGETHER TO HAVE A FUN CRAFTERNOON MAKING A FELT FAIRY HOUSE.





# YOU WILL NEED:

- ROUND CARDBOARD BOX WITH LID
- SHEETS OF FELT (BROWN, DIFFERENT SHADES OF GREEN, AND ANY COLOURS FOR THE FLOWERS)
- ONE SHEET GREEN STIFFENED FELT (FOR THE BASE)
- 💑 FABRIC GLUE
- 💑 CRAFT SCISSORS
- 卷 BLACK PERMANENT MARKER
- BITS AND BOBS (BUTTONS, BEADS, JEWELS, ACORNS, STICKS, ETC.)
- 💑 BOX CUTTER







The first step should be carried out by an adult.

- **1.** Using the boxcutter, cut the shape of a door and window out of the side of the cardboard box.
- Wrap a piece of dark green felt around the outside of the box. Trace and cut out the same door and window shapes. Glue the felt around the box.
- **3.** Cut a winding pathway out of the brown felt, and glue it to the stiffened felt base.
- 4. Glue the house to the felt base, at the top of the pathway.
- **5.** Trace and cut a circle of dark green felt to glue on the lid or 'roof' of the house.





- 6. Using a marker, draw shapes of leaves of different sizes on a lighter green felt. Cut these out and use them to decorate the sides of the lid.
- **7.** Draw and cut vines, leaves, shrubs and flowers out of the remaining felt, and glue onto the walls of the house and the base.
- **8.** Glue little bits and bobs around the house and base. For example, you can have acorns lanterns, button decor and bead-centred flowers.

**TIP:** You can fill the house with some doll's house furniture so the fairies have somewhere to sit and sleep when they come to visit.



# things for your Mini Artist

WORDS + STYLING JENNA TEMPLETON

# JENNA TEMPLETON LOOKS BACK ON HER MUCH LOVED Art set and shares her picks for little artists.

I still remember my first art kit, given to me by my parents when I was a child. It still goes down in my 'little history' as the best present ever. It was a bright purple art box kit with all different trays and compartments, filled with everything a little artist could need. Sets of crayons, coloured textas and pencils, rubber stamps, glitter glue and a blank art book to begin my masterpieces in... I was one very happy kid.

I'll always be thankful for my parents supporting me in all my creative endeavours as a child and in my young adult years. Never one to be super great at the academic subjects at school, I always felt at home when creating. My art allowed me to express my ideas in so many different ways. It's important to encourage children to get a little creative and to work with different art materials.



# HERE ARE 10 THINGS FOR YOUR MINI ARTIST:

CHILD MAGAZINES

Smock Penny Scallan / Art Workshops for Children by Herve Tullet Art Gallery of NSW / Bobo Choses Art College Tote Bag Tiny Style / Polka Dot Wall Stickers 41 Orchard / Matisse's Garden By Samantha Friedman + Cristina Amodeo Australian Art Books / Bobo Choses Matisse Flared Skirt Leo & Bella / Edx Education Art Supplies No Spill Paint Pots Limetree Kids / HB Pencil Lamp Michael & George / Jasart Children's Easel Eckersleys / Triangle Crayon Set The Woodsfolk

# CREATIVE WORKSHOPS For busy hands

WORDS JENNA TEMPLETON

# JENNA TEMPLETON FINDS SOME FUN AND CREATIVE Workshops in each state that'll inspire you to get making.

There are so many fun workshops regularly happening around Australia, where you can learn anything from screen printing to photography basics. Maybe you're a mother looking to meet new friends and connect with your local community. Or a creative who wants to learn a new skill to apply to an upcoming project. Either way, we have you covered.







# HERE ARE SOME OF MY FAVES I'M EAGER TO VISIT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME?

# Work-Shop

Learn how to do public speaking like a boss, photography and hand lettering basics, basket weaving and other beginner craft skill classes.

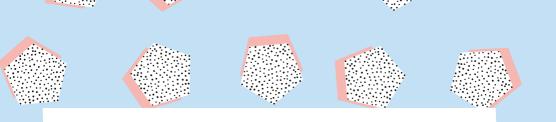
Where: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Byron Bay

# Brick + Mortarq

A co-working space for independent designers, artists, makers and creative businesses. Workshops and special events are regularly held in the space, teaching social media for creatives and small businesses, terrarium making for kids, paper pot plant crafting and botanical jewellery making. **Where:** Adelaide, SA







# The Craft Sessions

Why not make a holiday out of the joy of making and learning a new skill at the same time? The Craft Sessions hosts weekend retreats that give you the opportunity to make new friends, share the love of making and learn a new (or perfect) a craft skill such as knitting, garment sewing, quilting, embroidery and fabric printing.

Where: Yarra Valley, VIC

# Beau Est Mien: Prints & Designs

Oh my! I can't get over how cute these workshops are. As a stationery lover myself, I'd love to attend one of their classes for adults and kids! Children can learn how to do marble printing, design their own stationery set and screen print a placemat, while Mum can get creative doing block printing, botanical etching and photo transfer art. **Where:** Perth, WA

# Home-Work

CHILD MAGAZINE

The lovely ladies of Home-Work really know a thing or two about screen printing. Learn how to print your own designs and modern patterns on fabric, get skilled in the traditional Japanese fabric dyeing method – Shibori, and weave a wool tapestry taught by maker Maryanne Moodie. **Where:** Melbourne, VIC

18

## Bonnie Hislop

**CHILD** MAGAZINES

Ceramic bowl artist Bonnie Hislop is more than happy to share her skills with you. Learn how to make super-cute ceramic animal bowls and plates in one of her upcoming classes. Her use of colour is so much fun!

Where: Brisbane + Gold Coast, QLD

## Saint Gertrude Letterpress

Learn how to design your own stationery and master the skill of letterpress (a special printing method) by artist, teacher and 'Lady of Lettery', Amy Constable. **Where:** Melbourne, VIC



WORDS BROOKE TASOVAC





# PLAN AHEAD TO AVOID CONSTANT UTTERINGS OF "I'M BORED".

This inexpensive bucket list of fun will keep the kids entertained with a balance of outdoor play at home, activities to do when out and about and crafty indoor projects for when the summer rain strikes:

**1.** Visit the beach, of course! Jump the waves, build sandcastles, bury each other from the waist down and don't forget to slip, slop, slap.

**2.** On a second beach visit, collect shells and explore the rock pools. Early evening when there are less people is the best time, but be sure to check when it's high tide.

**3.** Take a family bike ride. You can often find great trails nearby just by googling.

**4.** Make your own bubbles at home using a solution of water, dishwashing liquid and gelatin in a bucket. Use bubble wands to blow them around the yard.

5. Make potato-print artwork in the garden on a warm day.





6. Paint each other's faces. Kits can be purchased at most department stores as well as books with instructions on how to create different looks.

7. Have a pool party! Whether or not you have a built-in pool, you can get an inflatable pool and fill it with water and play Marco Polo, or have the kids search for items that have been dropped on the bottom.

8. Make playdough from scratch.

**9.** Build an outdoor cubby house. You can use sheets over the clothesline or outdoor furniture to make it look like a teepee.

10. Do some painting with yoghurt.

**11.** Set up an outdoor photo booth. Find a plain-coloured background and switch an iPad or another type of tablet onto self-portrait mode. Give the kids silly props such as wigs and hats and let them take as many funny photos as they want.



**12.** Take the kids fishing off a local wharf or find a spot at a nearby river. If you'd prefer, you could fish items such as toys and branches out of a plastic pool in the yard.

13. Make fizzy ice.

**14.** Dig out the board games and have a games night! Monopoly and Cluedo are my childhood favourites, and Scene It is also great if you have a DVD player.

**15.** Take a walk and collect bits and pieces such as leaves, bark and feathers to make a summer-themed collage.

**16.** Turn the backyard into a water park! It can be done just using equipment you already have. Place a baby slippery dip so that it runs down into a plastic pool, or turn the sprinkler on rotation so it splashes the kids while they're jumping on the trampoline. Just make sure you supervise the kids at all times, just as you would with any activity involving water.

**17.** Make toilet-paper-roll people.

**18.** Set up camping equipment in your backyard and sleep out under the stars.

**19.** Visit a local carnival.

**20.** Create coloured sand by adding food colouring to wet sand you bring home from the beach, and then putting it in small bottles. You could even try layering different-coloured sand in one bottle for a rainbow effect.

**21**. Have a water fight! Use water balloons, water pistols or even just the hose to try and wet each other. This is a fun water activity for families who don't have access to a pool.

**22.** Make finger puppets.

23. Play balloon volleyball.

**24.** Make chalk art on the driveway by drawing fun images around your kids' bodies and take photos. Check Pinterest for some cute ideas, but make sure you do this on a surface out of the sun. You can also draw squares to play hopscotch.

**25.** Make a tissue-paper bee.

**26.** Set up the slip and slide. If you can put it on a slight incline, your kids will be able to slip a bit better without adding detergent.









**27**. Start a vegetable patch in the garden or create a window box if you live in a unit or flat. Strawberries and herbs are good plants to start with as they are fairly easy to maintain.

**28**. Take the kids to the drive-in! You could even set up an outdoor cinema with a projector, using a white sheet or white wall as a screen, and watch some family movies together.

29. Make a treasure basket.

**30**. Have a 'make-your-own' day. Kids could make ice-cream sundaes, snow cones, pizza, homemade lemonade, ice-cream spiders, hamburgers or icy poles, to name a few possibilities.

**31.** Make frozen fossils.

**32.** Have a picnic play date. Meet up with friends and their kids at the park and have each person bring a picnic dish to share.

**33**. Set up a game of Twister on the lawn, drawing the circles with green, blue, red and yellow spray paint to shake things up a bit!

**34.** Make a dollhouse out of shoeboxes – one shoebox for each floor.

**35.** Go bowling in the backyard. Use plastic bottles half filled with water as pins, and bowl with a tennis ball to try and knock them over. For extra fun, kids can get squirted once with a water pistol for every pin they miss.



**36.** Make a felt fairy house and put it in the garden for the fairies to find.

**37.** Put food colouring into your pancake batter and cook on the barbecue for breakfast.

**38**. Make a mural using spray bottles filled with watercolour paint. Hang an old sheet on the clothesline and let the kids spray shapes and patterns onto it.

**39**. Pick flowers and make a bracelet chain or press them in a book.

**40**. Make a photo scrapbook of everything the family has done in summer!





WORDS + STYLING BRON BATES

# SYDNEY MUM OF THREE, BRON BATES, SHARES HER TIPS ON CAMPING WITH KIDS.

At heart, I'm an inside person. A five-star-resort-hopeful all the way. If you have a mixed marriage like I do (indoor + outdoor person) plus kids, choosing holidays that suit everybody can take some compromising. Enter: glamping, aka glamorous camping. Here are nine things we do to make roughing it more fun.

## Stay in a cabin instead of a tent.

After Max was born, Mark was worried he'd never go on a surfing holiday with his mates again. So, when Max was four or five months old, we went on the first of many beach 'camping' trips, but instead of staying in a tent like we used to do, we stayed in a cabin\* with a bathroom. Access to running water is important when you have a baby, because they soil themselves, and you, a lot.

#### Hire your own Portaloo.

This may seem excessive, but it really works for us. Depending on where you're camping, the loo can be delivered and picked up from the site, so there's not much you have to do. This is most cost effective if you're camping in a group.

#### Buy or hire an awesome tent.

'MAGAZINE<mark>S</mark>

A tent that is so beautiful you'll feel like you're on a luxurious safari (without the hunting).

#### Have each child be in charge of their own knapsack.

In each bag, include camping things like a torch, sunscreen, hat, water bottle, snack box, book, pencil case, notebook and spare socks. If your kids are over two or three years old, they can help choose the items to go in their bags, which will give them a greater sense of control and ownership and will hopefully result in them taking better care of their things. This is the bag to turn to when the 'I'm boreds' come out.

**Invest in awesome camp beds that lift you off the ground.** Kathmandu, Kmart and Ray's Outdoors all have beds you may like.



# **GLAMPING KIT**

Camp table Kmart / Lantern Coleman Australia / Socks Etsy / Backpack Hershel / Notebook Officeworks / Sleeping bag Fabrik / Bunny Seed Heritage / Tent Homecamp / Mug Etsy

# Bring bedding that's soft and snuggly.

This will make you feel like you're in a delicious cocoon at night, instead of a plastic bag. You may like the Roman Nomad or the Buckley Swag Bag. Alternatively, bring sheets, pillows and your doona and make your bed just like home.

# Put a tablecloth on the camp table.

The cloth can be as simple as a large piece of linen from the fabric store. I can't even believe how much difference a bit of well-chosen fabric draped over ugly furniture can make. It makes your surroundings feel homey. Mark actually came up with this one. He laid the cloth over an outdoor table and then popped a beer bottle with native flowers in the middle. It cheered me no end.

# If you'll have access to electricity, bring fairy lights to string up.

Because, magical.

# Bring a beautiful large blanket for sitting outside under the trees in the day, and looking at the stars at night.

When Rose was a baby, I bought a king size bedspread to use as a picnic blanket and we've using it ever since. It's large enough to fit all five of us, it's patterned (so it doesn't show stains) and it's smooth, not scratchy to lie on. Happy glamping!

\* There's been some debate at CHILD mags HQ as to whether staying in a cabin counts as 'glamping', with many people feeling that if there are existing walls and doors, it doesn't count. I disagree, and give indoor people with babies everywhere permission to stay in a cabin and pat themselves on the back for getting out in the nature.

31

# \* PLIKEMIN GD SCAVENGER KUNT KIT

WORDS + STYLING JENNA TEMPLETON

CHILD MAGAZINES

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### WE'VE PUT TOGETHER THE ULTIMATE POKÉMON KIT TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN THE HUNT FOR THOSE COLOURFUL CREATURES!

Did you collect Pokémon as a child? If you did, I'm sure you're loving all the Pokémon Go hype that has taken over the world right now. And Aussie children (and kid-ults) are totally doing their bit.

What's not to love? Kids being kids, adults being kids, all chasing magical creatures, going on adventures outside, working together, honing their technical skills. It's basically just a huge old school scavenger hunt, with a little help from technology.

So we've put together a little scavenger hunt kit (Pokémon themed of course) so your Pokémon hunter can be decked out and prepared in style for their travels around town.





HABA **Key Ring Compass** The Kids Depot / Higher Mind Designs **Pokémon GO Map Pin** Etsy / iCollected **Gold Metal Pokémon Gym Leader Badge** Etsy / Pikachu Pounce **T-shirt** All Posters / Pokémon Go App / Pokémon Sublimated **Bucket Hat** Gamedex / **Pokémon Go Plus** Kotaku / Patagonia Kids' **Refugio Backpack** Rushfaster / XY Pokémon **Clip and Carry Poke Ball** Dungeon Crawl / Pokémon Charizard Original **Snapback Hat** Gamedex / Squirtle Plush **Gamedex** / Pikachu **Drink Bottle** EB Games / Pokeball **Lunch Bag** EB Games



# JENNA TEMPLETON SHARES THE PODCASTS SHE'S LISTENING TO THAT NURTURE HER INNER CREATIVE.

Since downloading the podcast app a few months ago, a whole new world has opened up – and all I have to do is listen. I've already come across some amazing podcasts full of inspiration and discovered likeminded people who are happy to share their knowledge on a whole range of creative topics.



# HERE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVOURITES:

#### 1. Magic Lessons by Elizabeth Gilbert

Big Magic by Elizabeth Gilbert was the first book I read this year. I couldn't put it down. Elizabeth's 'Magic Lessons' podcast delves into some of her key topics featured in Big Magic even more – focusing on creativity, fear and self-reinvention.









#### 2. The Minutes with Mel and Patience



I love this channel – comedian Mel Buttle and Patience Hodgson from the Australian band The Grates make a hilarious duo with no topic off the table. They share their thoughts on motherhood, the comedic industry, band life, parking fines, childbirth and pregnancy. It's so good that at times you feel like you're listening to two close friends having a chin-wag that you want to be part of.



Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to interview Patience about navigating motherhood, de-cluttering, her go-to reads and the experiences and life knowledge she hopes to pass on to her daughter, Soda.



#### 3. So You Want To Be A Writer? By Valerie Khoo and Allison Tait – Australian Writers' Centre

Journalists and authors Valerie Khoo and Allison Tait share their tips, advice and experiences in the world of writing, blogging and publishing. This is great for any budding or professional writer wanting to learn from the best and get involved with the local writers' community.

#### 4. The Wheeler Centre

I discovered this channel after listening to one of their latest podcasts – an interview with the iconic Australian artist Ken Done. I'm a big fan of Ken Done's work, so it was great listening to him talk about his life, travel adventures and advertising and painting career. Some of the stories also feature in his new biography Ken Done – Life Coloured In, a book I immensely enjoyed. This podcast channel also features more talks with other Australian authors. It's wonderful to hear interviews with some of the greats!









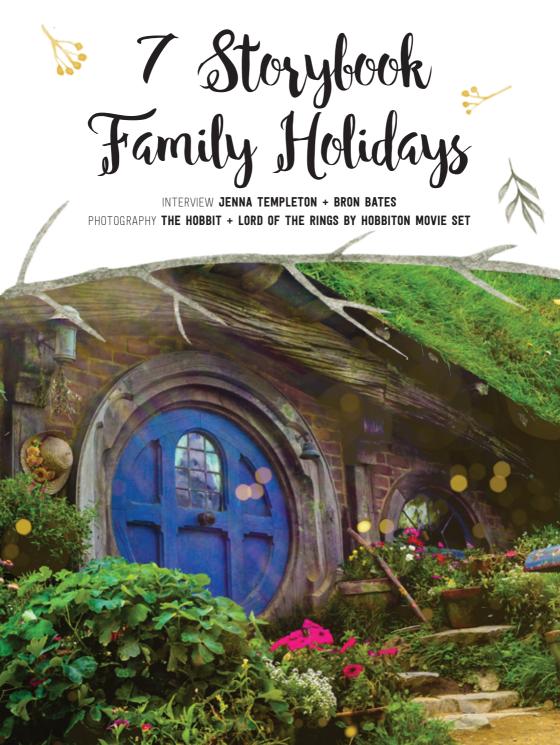
#### 5. The Lively Show by Jess Lively

Jess Lively chats to some of my personal favourite creatives, business owners, bloggers and all round amazing women doing inspiring things such as: Jen Gotch (Ban.do), Gretchen Rubin (The Happiness Project), Joy Cho (Oh Joy!) and Brené Brown (Rising Strong). Jess always knows the perfect questions to ask and makes her guests feel comfortable to share their struggles, successes and lessons learned.

## 6. Elise Gets Crafty by Elise Blaha Cripe

This one is for the crafters! Elise chats to an array of creative business owners, bloggers, entrepreneurs and crafty folks and shares tidbits on building a creative business, taking risks, building brands, growing a social media community, productivity tools and following your own creative path.





# DREAMING OF TAKING YOUR KIDS ON A HOLIDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE?

From exploring Eloise's world of The Plaza in New York City, to pottering around Peter Rabbit's British countryside and discovering local treasures like the big tree in Sydney from the Australian classic, My Place, there are so many destinations your favourite children's story can take you to.

#### Eloise by Kay Thompson

Eloise, an independent-minded six-year-old girl living in the The Plaza Hotel in New York City, has been enchanting children and grownups since the 1950s. In 2010, the Eloise Suite was opened on the 18th floor of The Plaza, featuring a plethora of pink custom-designed furnishings and bedding. The Eloise tea party room can be rented for private parties (check out the details and menu here) and an abundant Eloise boutique gift store offers everything from Eloise books to Eloise T-shirts, fluffy tutus and Eloise dolls. Have Eloise Tea or All Day Eloise Breakfast in The Palm Court (dishes served include 'Organic City Child Chicken' and 'Charge It Please, Mac And Cheese'), or check out the event calendar to join in upcoming special events.

#### Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Allow your imagination to run wild like Anne Shirley on Prince Edward Island in Canada, where Anne of Green Gables was set. Visit the Green Gables House that was once owned by author Lucy Maud Montgomery's cousins. As a young girl, Lucy often visited the homestead and it became the heart and inspiration behind the Anne of Green Gables book series. In a nearby area on Prince Edward Island, you can take a stroll through the

'Haunted Woods' and the Balsam Hollow trails and soak up the splendor of Cavendish Beach, just like Anne in the books and movie.

#### The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Peter Rabbit, Benjamin Bunny, Jemima Puddle-Duck and the Flopsy Bunnies are just some of the many delightful characters featured in Beatrix Potter's children's book series. Located in the stunning landscape of the Lake District, England, you'll find Hill Top house, where Miss Potter lived. Take tours of the home and have fun exploring the garden, even looking up the real garden path, where The Tale of Tom Kitten and The Tale of Pigling Bland were set.





#### Winnie The Pooh by A.A. Milne

The cuddly bear and his home in the 100 Aker Wood have its origins in a real toy bear and a real wood in the south of England. Located in Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, you can stroll through the 500 Acre Wood, full of oaks and beeches (the inspiration for the 100 Aker Wood), past the gorse-bushes that poor Pooh was prickled by, and play Poohsticks at the bridge that runs over the same little stream Pooh and his friends played at in the beloved story. The Pooh Corner Shop provides information on tours, Piglet's Tearoom for snacks, and fun souvenirs so you don't leave empty handed.

#### Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

Visit the real life home of Jo, Beth, Amy and Meg. Orchard House in Massachusetts, USA, was the setting for author Louisa May Alcott's beloved book about girls finding their way into womanhood at a time of civil war, and also her own home from 1858 to 1877. Orchard House looks very similar today to when the author lived there with her father, mother, and sisters Anna and May. Peer into the rooms styled true to the times, including Louisa's chambers, where she wrote Little Women at the halfmoon desk built for her by her father.



# The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Be enchanted by The Shire, home of our favourite little heroes: Bilbo Baggins, Frodo and friends. Located in Matamata, the North Island of New Zealand, you'll find a small piece of middle earth left behind from the filming of the popular film franchise – Hobbiton! Take the set tours to see the cosy Hobbit Holes, The Green Dragon Inn, The Mill and the double-arched bridge featured in the film trilogies and book series.

#### My Place by Nadia Wheatley

One of the beautiful things about this Australian classic picture book is its time travel narrative that takes us back through the decades since European settlement through the eyes of generations of children living in the Sydney suburb of Newtown. The delightful maps that accompany each child's story contain one constant: the big tree. You can visit the Moreton Bay fig tree as featured in the television show based on the book and also take a wander around the surrounding streets that are illustrated so beautifully by Donna Rawlins in the original tale. Look up the big tree from My Place in the grounds of Saint Stephen's church, next to Camperdown Memorial Park in NSW.



# A CHANGE IS As good as a holiday

WORDS CASSIE HAMER

#### HOLIDAYS TAKE ON A NEW MEANING ONCE KIDS ARRIVE, BUT A CHANGE OF SCENE CAN STILL LEAVE YOU RE-ENERGISED, WRITES CASSIE HAMER.

Nappies? Check. Wipes? Check. Blender? Check. Toys, books, muslin, baby shampoo, rattles, food, clothes, pram, port-a-cot, teething gel, crayons? Check. It's a tick-and-check fest in our household as we pack for a holiday – 10 days in the country. All 48 items are checked off, and that's just for our two-yearold and 10-month-old daughters. It's lucky my husband is good at jigsaw puzzles because packing our boot will require such skills.



Our two year old is wildly excited and hounds us as my husband and I bundle the luggage into the car: "When are we going?" "Are we going yet?" "Why aren't we going yet?" Finally, we're ready to go. However, thanks to a major traffic jam, an hour later we are barely out of the city and ready for a stop. I need an intravenous shot of caffeine and we've been promising our toddler a babycino for about 10km.

We pull in to a roadside service area and enter the cafe; my husband joins the 10-deep queue for hot food and drinks while I find a table. He returns with two coffees and absolutely nothing for our babycino-loving toddler. (Stay calm. Breathe. This is a holiday.)

I find a shorter queue for cold drinks only, returning with a strawberry milk that placates my two year old and, revived by the caffeine and sugar, I start feeding the baby some yoghurt. Hubby disappears to the bathroom and chaos erupts. The entire contents of the strawberry milk are spilt and as I ineffectively dab at the spillage with serviettes, our baby uses the spoon accidentally left within her reach to smear yoghurt all over her face and clothes. My husband returns to find two children covered in dairy products and a wife wondering how, exactly, this could constitute a holiday? At the neighbouring table, a mum and dad with older children look at us with a mixture of bemusement and sympathy, as if to say, 'Yes. We've been there. Don't worry, it gets easier.'

Needless to say, holidays aren't quite what they used to be. The word itself conjures up images of rest and relaxation; sleeping in till 9am, having a late breakfast, and then generally forgetting about the time, day and date altogether.

Indeed, that is the very definition of holiday – until children are in the picture.

So, once babies enter the scene, what exactly does a holiday represent? Can it be enjoyable? Of course it can and I have a theory to prove it. But first, back to our 'cafe calamity' and how we handled it. We did the only constructive thing we could; my husband and I laughed. We laughed at ourselves, our kids and the challenge of the situation. We knew it was a moment that one day would seem very funny; we just had to fast-forward through the part where we felt stressed and frustrated.

From that point, the holiday improved markedly. We spent lots of time playing, swimming and enjoying our family time together. Was it restful? Not really. We were still up at 6am and the baby decided to start waking again in the middle of the night for feeding. But did we enjoy it? Hugely. None of us wanted to come home.

It was during our break that a revised theory of what constitutes a holiday struck me. We've all heard the saying 'a change is as good as a holiday', but have you ever wondered where it came from? My bet is that it was created by a parent trying to figure out how a holiday could still be enjoyable when it was neither relaxing nor restful.

I now know it is possible to return from a vacation feeling recharged and re-energised, even when you don't get any extra shut-eye. Here's why: our holiday was a change – a change from our normal routine, a change of scenery, a change of pace, a change of activity. It was a true break from our everyday lives – from work, from mobile phones, from emails. And with kids, a change is a holiday.