

Jelly Baby Month

May 2012

May is Jelly Baby month a time to raise awareness about the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) who is the world leader in funding research to cure, treat and prevent type 1 diabetes.

Whilst many people are familiar with type 2 diabetes, which accounts for 85% of all people with diabetes, type 1 diabetes is the more serious form. It is caused by the body's immune system mistakenly destroying the cells that produce insulin. This disease lasts for life and every day 5 more Australians are diagnosed with this disease, most of them children.

In March 2010 Rachel and Stuart Atkinson discovered their daughter Hailey had Type 1 diabetes, Stuart says that 'while we led a healthy lifestyle the whole family changed the way they live to assist in managing Hailey's condition'.

Rachel is a Jelly Baby Month facilitator at Child Side School, and she explained how 'the whole school has helped the family by educating the school's community about Hailey's condition and putting in place procedures and practises which everyone contributes to'. This provides Rachel and Stuart with great confidence that Hailey is being well looked after both at home and at school.

Each term the older at Child Side School pick a Big Idea topic to investigate and this terms theme is 'Fit for Life', which will include aspects of human health. Big Idea work occurs individually and as a group, and a major group project includes getting to know and understand our bodies, for which the children will sew a human body, with removable parts.

Through these learning's Child Side School continues to make their children more prepared and 'Fit for Life'. Even one small but simple understandings can a save life – such as the fact to prevent people with diabetes going into a coma when their blood glucose drops too low you can give them a quick source of sugar – Jelly Babies.

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Hailey Atkinson (left) with her big sister Danika displaying some of the merchandise available to promote Jelly Baby Month