

# extra fingers

Newsletter number 29 • July 24, 2013

VISIT THE WEBSITE [CLICK HERE](#)

## That's to make you buy it

**DAD**, referring to a poster Amelie had that was given to her to encourage her to play cricket: "What's this?"

**AMELIE**: "Oh, that's from Sport. That's a poster and this (referring now to an A4 fact sheet on cricket) is if I want to do cricket."

**DAD**: "If you want to do cricket?"

**AMELIE**: "Yeah."

**DAD**: "Do you want to do cricket?"

**AMELIE**: "Yes. I do want to. If you sign up you get free things. To wear."

**DAD**: "You get free things?"

**AMELIE**: "Yeah, that's what she said. Sign up today!"

**DAD**: "Yeah but is there any other reason for doing it other than getting the free things? Like the free shirt? You want to do it because you want to play cricket, don't you?"

GET in2 FUN

GET in2 CRICKET

SIGN UP TODAY

in2 CRICKET

MILO

There's no better way to spend a day than with new friends learning how to play cricket! With the MILO in2CRICKET program, both girls and boys not only get to learn awesome skills for an awesome game, they also get to have some awesome fun. And mum and dad will be pleased to know that you can do all this fun stuff at the cricket club, school or community centre closest to you. So what are you waiting for? Sign up today at [www.in2CRICKET.com.au](http://www.in2CRICKET.com.au)

YOUR NEAREST MILO in2CRICKET CENTRE IS  
**South Perth Junior Cricket Club**  
Saturday mornings, 9am-10am @ Raphael Park  
Contact: David Linton [registrar@spjcc.com](mailto:registrar@spjcc.com)

in2CRICKET - for Boys & Girls, ages 5 & up!  
Come down and HAVE-A-GO!

IT'S EASY 2 SIGN UP AT [in2CRICKET.COM.AU](http://in2CRICKET.COM.AU)

**AMELIE:** “Yes!”

**DAD:** “Right. (*Reading from the Milo cricket fact sheet*) ‘There’s no better way to spend a day than with new friends learning how to play cricket.’ When I played cricket we didn’t get anything. It says here, ‘If you join up with a starter pack, you get a backpack, drink bottle, bat, ball, hat, T-shirt, and Milo giveaways’. When I started we didn’t get anything.”

**AMELIE:** “I got Milo. (*Referring now to a free sample of Milo given to her*) You put it in milk and you drink it.”

**DAD:** “Yeah, and what happens then?”

**AMELIE:** “You just drink it.”

**DAD:** “Yeah but what does Milo do?”

**AMELIE,** believing Milo to be self-explanatory: “It’s Milo!”

**DAD:** “Yeah, what about it? What’s that mean?”

**AMELIE:** “You put it in milk and you drink it.”

**DAD:** “And what happens to you? Does anything happen?”

**AMELIE:** “Dad! No! Nothing happens.”

**DAD:** “Do you get strong muscles out of it or anything?”

**AMELIE:** “No.”

**DAD:** “Okay. (*Reading off the free sample of Milo*) They’ve got here ‘energy food drink’. That’s what they’re saying.”

**AMELIE:** “Yeah, Dad, it doesn’t matter. They’re just doing that to make you buy it.”

## Cool hit

**AMELIE:** “Sometimes it’s so hot, like the weather’s really hot, and so I try to hurt myself to get an icepack from the office.

Because it’s so cool.”

**DAD:** “How do you try to hurt yourself? What do you do?”

**AMELIE:** “Well, I try to bang it on the thing; I say, ‘Owww!’”

**DAD:** “Bang what?”

**AMELIE:** “I try to bang my head on the wall.”

**DAD:** “Your head? But that’ll give you concussion, darl.”

**AMELIE:** “Yeah, um, two people bashed heads and they got big eggs on their heads.”

**DAD:** “Why did they do that for?”

**AMELIE:** “Well, because they were running and then they bashed and got big eggs on their heads.”

**DAD:** “Yeah, but, you don’t really do that to get an icepack, do you?”

**AMELIE:** “Um, well, some people do. They love icepacks. They say, ‘Oh! I want an icepack.’ Everyone loves the icepacks.”

**DAD:** “Yeah but they wouldn’t be truly trying to bang their head or get hurt, would they?”

**AMELIE,** evasively: “Oh, okay, this was a reason. I was going into the office – because I was pretending I was going to get an icepack – when these two girls came out and, um, you can’t see people when they’re coming out so they pushed the door really fast and it went bang into my head and, um, I went into the office and I was, like, ‘Oh, goodie!’”

**DAD:** “You were happy about that?”

**AMELIE:** “Yeah, I said, ‘Oh, I was just coming into the office and I banged my head because someone was pushing the door,’ and then they gave me an icepack.”

## Stop answering questions . . . that you ask!

**DAD**, after picking Amelie up from a party: "Back to school tomorrow, Ams."

**AMELIE**: "Don't mention it!"

**DAD**: "Why? You're in Year Two. School's fun."

**AMELIE**: "No it's not."

**DAD**: "Yes it is. School is always fun when you're in Year Two."

**AMELIE**: "Dad. Stop answering questions . . . that you ask!"

## At pains to see the nurse

**AMELIE**: "Dad, a hurtful desk fell on someone today."

**DAD**: "Did it? Really? A hurtful desk?"

**AMELIE**: "Hmm-hmm. And someone in my class got hurt by it. They got this red line on their arm."

**DAD**: "Oh. Well, that's not very good, is it?"

**AMELIE**: "Yeah, I know. My teacher went mad because she didn't know what to do."

**DAD**: "Mad?"

**AMELIE**: "Yeah. I think she got mad at all the computers [that were on the desk] because they made it collapse."

**DAD**: "Was there any blood on the girl's arm?"

**AMELIE**: "No. Just a red line. She ended up crying."

## I thought your sister was dead

**DAD**: "Amelie, do you embarrass Issy, do you?"

**AMELIE**: "No!"

**ISABELLA** to **AMELIE**: "Well, you lay in the Year Six area."

**DAD**: "What is the 'Year Six area'?"

**ISABELLA**: "You know that brick area? Where all the lockers are?"

**DAD**: "Oh yeah. She laid there?"

**ISABELLA**: "Yeah. Because she heard about you saying not to be embarrassed and be yourself and that's what she did."

**DAD**: "What did she do?"

**ISABELLA**: "She laid in the Year Six area."

**DAD**: "What? Laying on the bricks?"

**ISABELLA**: "Yeah. With her stuff everywhere."

**DAD**: "And one of your friends said something to her?"

**ISABELLA**: "Two friends came up to me and they were, like, um, is your sister, like, hurt or something? She's lying on the grass."

**DAD**: "Is that what they said?"

**ISABELLA**: "Yeah. And then one of them said, 'I thought your sister was dead.'"

**DAD:** “Well, she would. Did she end up going to the nurse?”

**AMELIE:** “No. But she would have liked to.”

**DAD:** “Would she have?”

**AMELIE:** “Yes. Definitely! At the nurse’s they have this really long bed and there’s also a pillow for you to sleep on. It’s so cool, Dad! And they also have lots of teddies. You only get to go there if you’re sick though. You can’t just go there for a scratch or anything. You need to have a really sore tummy or something that’s really hurting. You can’t just go if you have a red line.”

**DAD:** “What about if you’ve got a red line that’s bleeding?”

**AMELIE:** “No . . . Oh, you might be able to then. Normally, if that’s what you’ve got, you only get a Band Aid.”

**DAD:** “Oh. That’s bad luck.”

**AMELIE,** wistfully: “Yeah I know.”

## THE LAST WORD

# You’re so lucky I exist

**ISABELLA,** on the way to school: “Amelie, look at yourself! Your top button isn’t done up.”

**AMELIE:** “Isn’t it? Oh yeah!”

**ISABELLA:** “You are so lucky I exist.”

# My terrible life

**DAD,** saying goodnight to Isabella after a long and exhausting night: “Goodnight, sweetie. I’m exhausted!”

**ISABELLA,** mistrustfully: “How can you be exhausted? What have you done?”

**DAD:** “There’s so much to do, darling.”

**ISABELLA:** “I wish I had your easy life.”

**DAD:** “Do you?”

**ISABELLA:** “Yeah.”

**DAD:** “You reckon?”

**ISABELLA,** piling on the melodrama: “My life’s terrible!”

**DAD:** “Oh, it is not.”

**ISABELLA:** “It’s sad, and, it’s so hard to get everything done. I have to remember singing and oboe and drama and homework and . . . oh!”

**DAD:** “Yeah, but you didn’t do any drama.”

**ISABELLA:** “No, like—”

**DAD:** “And you didn’t do any oboe.”

**ISABELLA:** “No, I mean, like, going to school and having to remember to do homework and debates and remembering to do the movie on Friday night.”

**DAD:** “Remembering to do the movie on Friday night? That’s something that’s tough work for you, is it?”

**ISABELLA:** “Yeah, because sometimes I forget and you won’t let me watch the movie on Saturday [not true] so I have to really remember and then I have to remember what people have said to me. Because if they’ve said something bad I can say, ‘Oh well, you’ve said something bad’, but if I’m nice to them that’s not as good.”

**DAD:** “So you’re including on your list of tough things remembering what people have said to you and remembering to get your movie on a Friday night? You’re including those things in your list?”

**ISABELLA:** "Hmm-hmm."

**DAD:** "I think that speaks a lot. About how easy your life is."

**ISABELLA:** "My life's not that easy. I have to remember to fill up Angie's water bowl, and go Ripstiking, and, um, play things. Because, sometimes I think I've got a really good idea for a game."

Amelie enters the room boisterously complaining of a sore foot.

**AMELIE**, sobbing: "Da-d-d-dy!"

**DAD** to **ISABELLA:** "See? That's part of my problem. Hear that sound coming into the room? You want to know why I get really tired?"

**AMELIE:** "Da-d-d-dy! I've hurt my knee."

**DAD:** "See? That's part of it."

**ISABELLA**, believing she can solve Amelie's problem quickly: "Amie. Just go to your bed and get an icepack."

**AMELIE:** "No, no, no, no, no!"

**ISABELLA:** "Okay . . . Anyway, Dad."

At this point, I was more or less reconciled to my fate.

**DAD:** "The whimpering's going to go on for a while yet."

**ISABELLA:** "So maybe I think about a game and then I have to write it down or otherwise I might not remember."

**DAD:** "Yeah."

**AMELIE**, still whimpering: "Somebody help me!"

**ISABELLA:** "Because in Sydney I had this really good idea for a game so I had to put an alarm on for when I got back from where I was."

**DAD:** "Yeah."

**ISABELLA:** "To remember. And it was really hard to remember!"

**DAD:** "See, grownups don't do that. They don't put alarms on for a game they've got to remember. Or to remember to watch a movie. Or to remember what people have said to them so they can find out whether they need to be angry with them or happy with them. They don't do that. [To remember] they have things like 'pay bills' or get the insurance paid."

**ISABELLA:** "How about if someone was really mean to you and you forgot about it and then you were all nice to them? They'd think you had forgiven them. And then later on you'd just be mean to them and they wouldn't know why."

**DAD:** "Yeah, but mostly—"

**ISABELLA:** "How are you going to remember in your little brainy?"

**DAD:** "Yeah, well, most adults are pretty good at remembering who's been mean to them. Usually—"

**ISABELLA**, not listening: "Amelie, would you like to do a job for me?"

**AMELIE**, still whimpering: "Yep."

**ISABELLA:** "There's a cup right here. Fill it up with water ice blocks. That would be really nice for me."

**AMELIE**, theatrically: "I've got a really sore knee!"

**ISABELLA:** "It's alright. You can hop."