

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Nikki, Chris, Krystal & Ryan

Swing by! This is the fitting slogan for one of Bainbridge Island's newest and most unique children's boutiques - Fuzzy Monkey. Located just off of Winslow Way along Madrone Avenue, the store is filled with fabulous toys, clothes and gifts for infants and children.

As you enter the cozy space (it's just over 180 square feet), you are greeted by walls painted a bright, cheerful blue surrounded by the smiling faces of plush toys and dolls which stare out from their homes atop cleverly placed displays. And though the space is small, the selection is great.

The store itself is less than one year old, but has already experienced a metamorphosis. Opened in the year 2001, islander Chris Theuerkorn and her husband Fenix purchased the store in November of this year when family obligations forced the former owner to relocate in a hurry. Since then, Theuerkorn along with employee Krystal Cady, has continued to build upon a good thing. "I'm fortunate to have Krystal. When she is in the store, I know customers are well taken care of and can therefore enjoy my time with my family."

Chris strives to bring in items that can't be found elsewhere on the island, including European labels Petit Bateau, Catimini, Sucre d'Orge and popular American designers such as April Cornell, Baby Lulu, and Mak-the-Yak. There is also a fine selection of hand-knit jumpers, sweaters and blankets. In addition to international designers, Chris enjoys promoting local artists, who provide the store with unique handmade items. One of the most ingenious being the "people purse" designed by island local Mary McCormick. Using a combination of patterned material, buttons and ribbon - she creates fabulous fabric friends in the form of a purse.



Karen Morrison, another local designer is known for her "One-of-a-Kind" clothing including colorful jumpers and pantaloons. Michelle White, who resides in Poulsbo is the creator of the adorable Noggin' Topper hats as well as the original "fuzzy" purse, which combines colorful nubby fabric and buttons and is lined with coordinating colorful patterns that little girls will love. The "Duck" and "Frog" feet (webbed fuzzy slippers with non-skid bottoms) are another popular and unique item made by Port Townsend artist Mary Georgia.



In addition to the unique, you will also find basics such as undergarments, nightgowns and shoes. The store leads the way in bringing back good old fashioned toys like the wooden workbench, Tinker Toys and finger puppets. Another popular item is the sock monkey. With its floppy knit body, bright red lips and black yarn eyes; he takes people back to their youth. In fact, a couple of weeks ago, one man was known to travel from Mason Lake to this small store on Bainbridge Island, just to purchase two of the friendly fellows! They can even be personalized for a minimal charge.

Looking for the perfect gift? Select from a collection of silver-plated christening gifts, or something already attractively packaged, like the "bib-in-a bottle", an itsy-bitsy onesie,

complete with a photo frame packaged in a delicate basket, or a hooded towel and washmit set with a rubber duckie. Another unique gift is the "Dial-A-Photo" frame, which allows you to change the photo as your child grows. The statement, "guess how old I am" appears along the bottom, then a hollow square reveals their age, and a dial behind let's you adjust the year or month displayed.

Besides providing the island with fashionable children's clothing, Fuzzy Monkey actively supports local community-minded projects. "When I feel the event matches the mission of the store, we're more than happy to be involved," says Theuerkorn.

As for satisfying missions, the store has certainly done that for its new owner. "It has fit my need to stay on the island with my kids, and allows the children to be part of my work environment, which is great!" In fact, daughter Nikki can often be seen modeling the merchandise in local ads, and is happy to help mom with testing new products; as is her little brother Ryan. Come see for yourself! Fuzzy Monkey is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday noon to 4 pm.



fuzzy monkey
boutique