

Dizkis - The family approach the business!

BH Magazine catches up with local mum Tracy Kiss to find out how life is treating her...

A page from the new book

THE last time we saw Tracy Kiss, local young model and mum of one, she was proudly

introducing her new daughter Millie, and sharing with us her hopes and dreams for the future.

Now, one year on, things have changed dramatically for Tracy. The determined young mum is now off the modelling scene and has her sights firmly set on making her mark in the daunting world of product design and development.

This month, Tracy, joined by daughter Millie, explains how she has progressed from photo shoots to business meetings, and how she hopes her new products can help children worldwide.

Tracy's daughter Millie joined us for the interview. As inspiration for Tracy's products she was keen to show off what her mummy had been up to, and made short work of a packet of chocolate buttons whilst she was at it!

Hello Tracy and Millie! The last time we met Millie was just a tiny baby - what have you been up to since then?

Tracy :: Since we last spoke my partner Luca Dizenobia and I have registered our own company, Dizkis (a combination of both our family names) with a view to producing and marketing two products that we have developed.



Sounds exciting! Tell us what they are and how they came about.

Tracy :: My concerns began when, at six months, Millie didn't crawl. At ten months she was still not crawling. Millie would lay on her tummy like a baby seal and furiously wave her arms and legs around lifting her head as far back as she could. It was heart wrenching to see her struggle to gain posture and I spent many hours asking midwives and searching the internet for ways to help her to crawl.

Every time I helped her into a crouching position to crawl she'd simply sink back into the ground, nothing and nobody could help. I felt that I had failed to help her and guilt ate away at me as I

blamed myself for her inabilities, perhaps it was because I held her too much or I was inadequate at being a mother.

My partner Luca and I decided that maybe we could help her, and put together a concept for holding a child in the crawling position to allow them to gain strength in essential muscles without discomfort or unnecessary straining. Many hours were spent deciding exactly how and what the device would do, until our design was born. We had invented a mobility device which was essentially a baby crawler to walker that could take a child through all stages of development from crawling to sitting, standing, walking, and furthermore independent learning.

Sounds amazing! Many people come up with inventions and ideas though, what pushed you and Luca forward into actually doing something about it?

Tracy :: We both just want to do our best for Millie and to do something that makes a difference. We don't have any overheads, so if we were going to do it, it was a case of now or never.

Your mobility device sounds like it could have a huge impact on a child's life - has this been checked out by medical professionals?

Tracy :: The main concern raised by the public through our research was that you can not teach a child to crawl before they are ready as nature will eventually take its course. This troubled me as we were not trying to force a child to advance their abilities prematurely, but instead to assist them in order to benefit their development without interfering with nature. To answer these concerns, I contacted the head children's physiotherapist of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and I was pleasantly surprised. Far from pushing a baby to prematurely crawl, they said the device would have astonishing benefits both immediately and long-term for the child. Starting with muscle development, the babies' stability, core muscles, co-ordination and motor skills would benefit greatly, making them more capable of walking, picking up objects and drawing; because the baby is resting on all fours every muscle in the body is in use as opposed to none when laying down. As the product focuses on the crouching position the child is supported on their tummy, this is a positive step towards helping to combat the side effects of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or as is more commonly known, Cot Death;