

My Little Lefty

By Madelene Godfrey, Rangiora

My second son Rex, is 6 years old and you probably guessed it, he's left handed. All the rest of us, that is my husband, myself, our 7 year old son and 2 year old daughter are right handed. When we trace it back the closest relative we have that was left handed is my grandmother. Studies seem to be inconclusive as to what causes left handedness so I can't be sure it comes through the genes or just where it popped up from but studies do show about 10-12% of the world's population are lefties.

When we discovered Rex was left handed my husband's first comment was, "We'll have to get him a left handed rifle" (Sometime in the future that is!) while my first thoughts were about having to get him a left handed guitar! – Oh the interesting disparity in priorities between the sexes!

When Rex started home schooling last year, the left handedness was no problem. His writing was coming along nicely. I had some vague recollection of hearing about left handed scissors somewhere along the line so this did pass through my mind when purchasing his school stationary but I dismissed it, thinking the only difference between the two would be the ergonomics of the smaller thumb hole and the larger finger hole but considering his school scissors were devoid of such fancy features, it would be no issue.

My views were to change in January of this year when I met Nikki Soames of LeftHand NZ. Nikki is a lefty. She is based in New Zealand and has an online shop specifically for left handed people. What's more, she has teaching experience and has prepared a book entitled, *"Write-on Wipe-off" Workbook for Teaching Handwriting Skills to Left-handed Children*. I am so grateful I met Nikki while Rex was still so young and still forming his writing habits. Nikki shared some tips on how to help Rex form a better writing style which will help avoid smudging his writing and the most impressive revelation of all... left handed scissors are important for a lefty! When given the opportunity to use left handed scissors myself, I was shocked at just how difficult it is to cut neatly. Needless to say, Rex now has his own left handed scissors, a left handed pencil sharpener (no, I didn't know they existed either!) and his own "Write-on Wipe-off" writing pack for left handers.

So if you have a little lefty in your home, I'd just like to highly recommend that you at very least get him/her some proper scissors! (The blades cross the opposite way, so they can see exactly where they are cutting without the blade getting in the line of sight.) And of course I can recommend the book and website for more handy products. www.lefthandnz.com

Wishing you every blessing on your homeschooling journey.



Madelene with her children (left to right) Rex age 6, Lily age 2 and Jed age 7

Madelene Godfrey lives in Loburn, North Canterbury and is happily married to Wayne Godfrey. They have 3 children aged 7, 6 & 2 years. It has always been Madelene's goal to homeschool her children after having been homeschooled herself for the last 5 years of her schooling. She finds it a hugely rewarding experience to be so involved with her children's learning and character development.