

# RETAIL THERAPY

LITTLE GREEN FOOTPRINTS \ ELSTERNWICK

## FIND US AT

272 Glen Eira Road, Elsternwick  
9533 0002. [littlegreenfootprints.com.au](http://littlegreenfootprints.com.au)

## SALES PITCH

Specialising in modern cloth nappies and eco-alternative products for parents and babies.

### Who's behind the counter?

When mother-of-two Elissa Collier went online to investigate cloth nappies for her first child, she was overwhelmed. "I spent six weeks researching them and I still had no idea what they were talking about," she says.

But, after ordering some to test, Elissa was hooked. "They were such a massive benefit for anyone who's either wanting to save money or to protect the environment," she says.

She opened Little Green Footprints in 2013. "The shop was going to be a hobby for me and it's now become two full-time jobs."

### What's in store?

Little Green Footprints stocks 20 brands of modern cloth nappies. Elissa has tried and tested each one on her own kids.

She runs a weekly free Nappy Lab to teach parents about the nappies. The shop also sells natural wipes and skincare products, organic cotton clothing, toys, baby wraps and carriers.

### Who's buying?

Elissa's customers are environmentally conscious, or looking to save money.

"Conventional disposable nappies take 500 years to break down, so the cost on the environment is huge," she says. "But also you can save up to \$4000 in nappies over a child's life. That's a massive financial benefit." ●

CLAIRE SLATTERY



**Cool cloth:** Elissa Collier says the benefits of modern cloth nappies are many. (SCOTT McNAUGHTON)



## Our pick

You can't go past the wall of cloth nappies in all the colours of the rainbow.

Try this starter pack with brands including Grovia, Pikapu, Issy Bear and Hippybottomus, as well as Grovia Tiny Bubbles detergent, Yum Bum Butter nappy rash cream and bamboo flushable liners, valued at \$200.

# GIVE IT A GO

CLAIRE SLATTERY TAKES TO THE WATER



(SUPPLIED)

## We try WATER BABIES CLASS

### The promise

My former water baby has developed a sudden phobia of the bath. His surfer dad and I, a keen swimmer, are beginning to wonder if he's really our child. Time to get him reacquainted with the joys of H<sub>2</sub>O ahead of the summer holidays.

The awesome Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre offers a water babies' class for six-month to three-year-olds and their parents to bond and learn in "a relaxed and enjoyable aquatic environment".

### The reality

I'm crouched in my togs in bath-warm waist-deep water with my little one clinging to me for dear life. He's wary to begin with but gradually he comes around, splashing and giggling and gasping.

The instructor, Sarah, leads us in activities and games with nursery rhymes and songs. *Humpty Dumpty* has the kids perched on the edge of the pool, while *Ring a Ring o' Roses* involves me dipping the boy's head under when "we all fall down".

Most of the activities are designed to increase water familiarisation and confidence, and build the foundations of safe water

practices, including getting in and out of the pool, and understanding how to push off the bottom. Plus, they're really fun.

### The pay-off

My little Duracell bunny sleeps like a log after his water workout and bath time has become fun again.

### The pain factor

Bobbing up and down in the water for half an hour can be a little trying on the knees.

### Who should try it?

All parents. And all babies, from six months up. Everyone deserves to know how to swim, not only for safety but for pleasure too.

### The bill?

\$15.25 a class.

### WOULD I DO IT AGAIN?

Absolutely. I'm pretty sure if the baby could talk he'd tell me he would too. ●

Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre  
30 Aughtie Drive, Albert Park  
[www.melbournesportshub.com.au/msac](http://www.melbournesportshub.com.au/msac)