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Times proudly supporting **UpsideDowns** education trust

TIMES high tides	TUESDAY 14	WEDNESDAY 15	THURSDAY 16
	11:52 am - pm	12:18 am 12:36 pm	1:03 am 1:26 pm
	FRIDAY 17	SATURDAY 18	MONDAY 20
	1:52 am 2:23 pm	2:47 am 3:26 pm	3:48 am 4:52 am 5:33 pm

myth: Times Newspapers Ltd produces only newspapers.

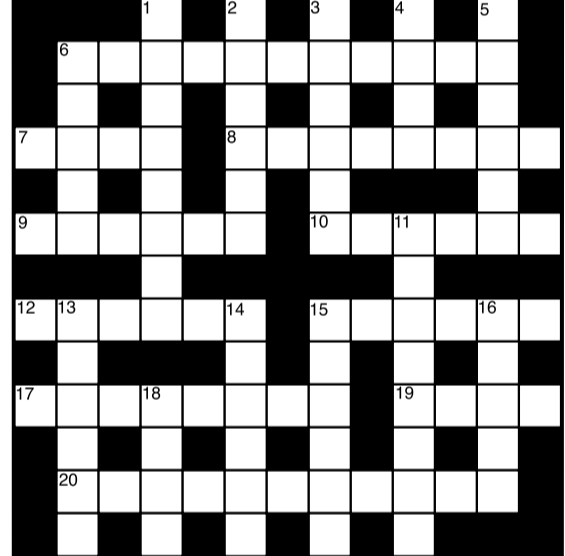
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TIMESWORD
QUICK PUZZLE NO.7410



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 6. See-through (11) | 1. Lozenge (8) |
| 7. Handle (4) | 2. View (6) |
| 8. Group (8) | 3. Dog (6) |
| 9. Ball (6) | 4. Appear (4) |
| 10. Harangue (6) | 5. Impassive (6) |
| 12. Widen (6) | 6. String (5) |
| 15. Calm (6) | 11. Vehicle (8) |
| 17. Spice (8) | 13. Undercoat (2) |
| 19. Kill (4) | 14. Fruit (6) |
| 20. Seize (11) | 15. Poverty (6) |
| | 16. Signal (5) |
| | 18. Scuff (4) |

QUICK PUZZLE NO. 7409 - SOLUTIONS
Across - 6, Decelerate. 8, Fate. 9, Zero. 10, Rogue. 11, Rill. 12, Freighter. 16, Charlatan. 20, Fuss. 22, Tunic. 23, Sink. 24, Diva. 25, Gorgonzola.
Down - 1, Veneer. 2, Bedouin. 3, Dearth. 4, Dangle. 5, Defer. 7, Stale. 13, Tea. 14, Capsize. 15, Tulip. 17, Hungry. 18, Reckon. 19, Annals. 21, Stage.



SISTERLY LOVE: Laura Blow playing with Alana; the two girls get grooving with Emily; Laura gets a hug from Emily.

Laura battled leukaemia

From Page 1
 Like many babies Laura took a little while to establish her feeding but after a number of tests she was given a reasonably clean bill of health.
 She has a small hole in her heart and has needed several sets of grommets to drain fluid from her ears, but otherwise she was completely well until she was five.
 There were slight developmental delays and Laura did not crawl until she was 12 months, which she stuck with for nearly a year.
 "We had a therapist who visited her from a young age but Laura did everything because she wanted to keep up and do what her sister and brother were doing," says Mrs Blow.
 "We continued with family life and even went camping when she was six months old.
 "Your life is normal and it's not hideous having a child with Down syndrome at all."
 When Laura was six months

old she started her speech and sound therapy.
 The programme included cognitive development working on memory and auditory processing, as well as her speech.
 This has been largely funded by the UpsideDowns Education Trust. The goal was to have these areas developed by the time Laura started school.
 "The differences between Down syndrome children who have early intervention and those who don't can be huge.
 "It can be anything from six months to two to three years' developmental difference."
 As a pre-schooler, Laura went to Mainly Music and gymnastics, and Mrs Blow massaged her religiously every night.
 She also attended public kin-

dergarten with a teacher aid for most of her sessions.
 Her parents overlapped the programme between home and kindergarten and Mrs Blow says that teacher aid Jeanette Judd was amazing.
 "If she ever did a game to build on a skill we were working on, she never did it just with Laura.
 "She made sure two or three

soon after she started school.
 Fortunately this cancer was successfully treated and new research indicates people with Down syndrome will not develop other cancers.
 When Laura returned to school, Mrs Blow was worried her daughter might avoid playing with her peers.
 Now the bubbly youngster fits in well and - if anything - she tends to be the boss of games in the playground.
 Laura is very independent and doesn't need a teacher aid in the afternoons.
 "That was one of our reasons for mainstreaming Laura," says Mrs Blow.
 "Our ultimate goal is she can be independent and live in an environment where she perhaps goes flatting with a bit of support and have her own job."
 With Laura's enthusiasm and great support from society, it is hard to imagine she will be anything other than a positive addition to the community.

"Your life is normal and it's not hideous having a child with Down syndrome at all."
 - Hannah Blow, whose daughter has Down syndrome

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