



Giant Leaps™ by FlagHouse, Develops Kid-Friendly

Deep Pressure Therapy Clothes

Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey – Giant Leaps – a FlagHouse Inc. brand specializing in products and programs for children with special needs – has developed a new line of child-friendly compression garments. The application of these new clothes in therapy, not only provides deep pressure support to children with wide-ranging physical, emotional and social challenges, but also makes deep pressure therapy entertaining and attractive to children. The new clothing does not restrict mobility, and fits easily under street clothes, or can be worn stylishly on its own.

“Children can be challenging clients to treat because, quite often, their focus is on ‘being cool’ and ‘fitting in’ with their peers, rather than achieving strength, stability and coordination,” explains Diana Hohmann, senior brand manager for Giant Leaps and a certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA) of 10 years. “Occupational therapists (OTs) have lamented to me that kids don’t want to wear compression clothing because it’s ugly and it prohibits active fun. Children with Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Sensory Processing Disorders (SPDs) and more, who need the benefits of deep pressure - such as posture bolstering, alertness, mental focus, body awareness, etc. - don’t get excited about putting on drab, uncomfortable compression clothing and then wearing it in front of their friends. And I don’t blame them!

"That's why our team spent a lot of time choosing the perfect fabric for, and designing, our new Rocket Man and Flower Power Compression Garments," she says. "We were looking for durability, versatility, functionality, and, above all, fun! And we're already getting great feedback from OTs who've tried the garments with kids of all ages. 'It's cool!' their clients tell them. And that's what we were going for."

The new garments were created with a superhero theme for both boys and girls: "We really tried to tap into the minds of children during the design process," Diana explains. "Our brand managers have children and have worked with children in educational or therapeutic fields. That experience, combined with the wisdom of people we meet at seminars, conventions and trade shows, helped us come up with an innovative concept: something that kids want to wear during therapy *and* playtime.

"Not only do we have superhero garments, but we've added flourishes like belts and headbands – sold separately or as complete sets, which are functional as well as neat to wear. I probably shouldn't peel back the curtain," she confesses, "but, when it came time for the catalog photo shoot, our models never wanted to take these compression clothes off. That's why many Giant Leaps and Flying Start™ new products feature photos of kids wearing the garments. We really nailed the fun part of our intention!"

Rocket Man and Flower Power Compression Garments have been designed for up to 174 lbs., and their creators recognize that not every kid is interested in superheroes: "One of the best aspects of the fabric we chose is that it can be discreetly worn under clothing," Diana explains. "So if you're working with a child who wants to wear jeans and a sweatshirt - or even a school uniform, he or she can put those clothes on over the compression garments. We also worked with stripe and floral accents for older kids or kids who aren't looking to stand out from the crowd as costumed heroes."

Compression Garment fabric has been designed to feel like a second skin, and it doesn't restrict movement. It's made from high quality, four-way stretch tricot (80% nylon and 20% spandex) that's machine-washable. The Nylon/Spandex blend allows it to retain its shape, which makes it especially effective at providing neurological proprioceptive (pertaining to the nerve endings) sensory feedback. The fabric feels soft and silky to the touch and has been dyed for style so that no pieces of fabric - even the "cape" - hang off the main garment, making the clothes safe and thin enough to be worn under street attire.

"We're especially proud of the faux cape," Diana says. "OTs who've had trouble ensuring that young clients wear their compression clothes are in for a real treat. Don't be surprised if kids of all levels of ability soon ask to wear 'the cool clothes with the cape!'"

About FlagHouse

FlagHouse is a premier global supplier of resources for physical activity, recreation, education and special needs. Headquartered in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, and with operations in the United States and Canada, FlagHouse has over 50 years experience responding to customers' changing needs. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities. FlagHouse markets its products through catalogs including [Physical Education and Recreation™](#), [GoingStrong™](#), [Flying Start™](#) and [Giant Leaps™](#) and through its Web site <http://www.flaghouse.com>. In addition to being the North American distributor for [SNOEZELEN®](#) multi-sensory environments, FlagHouse holds the publishing, marketing and distribution rights for [CATCH®](#) (Coordinated Approach to Child Health). FlagHouse serves both the public and private sectors through relationships with schools, parks, community centers, healthcare organizations, day treatment and residential care centers, military bases and individuals.

About Giant Leaps™

Giant Leaps is the division of FlagHouse that selects and develops products and programs for children and adolescents, ages 5 to 20, with special needs. Led by Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant Diana Hohmann – a member of the Special Olympics Young Athletes™ Advisory Board, this brand nurtures a wealth of resources for therapists, caregivers and educators.

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