

28 October 2004

Victorian Collaborative Infant Study Discussion Forum

What is a Discussion Forum?

The Discussion Forum is an online network discussion platform which would allow users to post online text messages and view messages posted by others.

Why has VICS got a Discussion Forum?

The main purpose of the Discussion Forum is to provide an area for families of premature born infants to share their experiences. It is also a place where other users, such as Health Professionals can share their expertise and provide advice.

What the First Page Looks Like

Below is a screen-shot of the first page of the Discussion Forum. This can be found in <http://www.vics-infantstudy.org.au/phpBB2/>. As can be seen, this site is broken up into many categories (such as Medical Advice, Research & Publications etc). You can post messages within these categories.

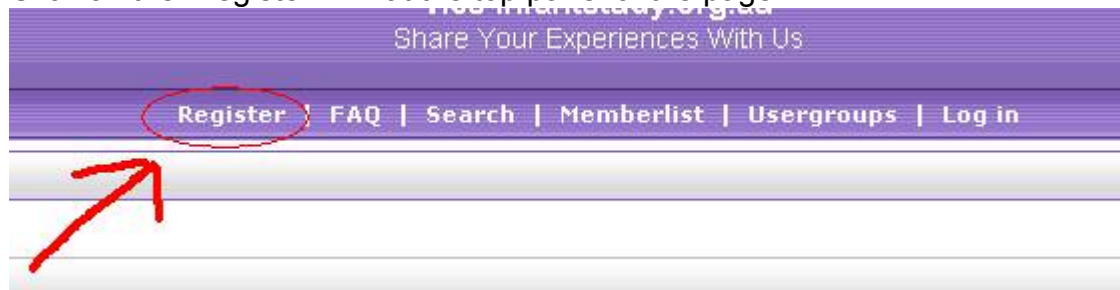


How to get Started

1. Registration

Before a user can login into the discussion forum, a user must do a once-off registration. This is to make sure that the administrators of the Discussion Forum can keep track of users of the forum.

Click on the 'Register' link at the top panel of the page



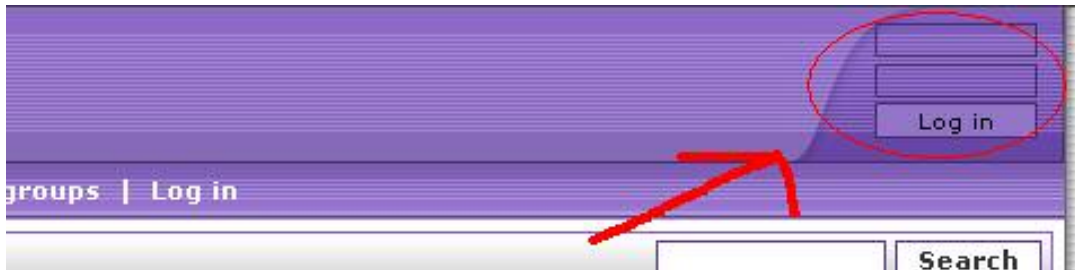
After Reading the Registration Agreement Terms and accepting them, the user would then be required to fill out a form. The form would ask for information such as preferred username, email address, and password. The form would ask other information, however that information would not be compulsory to fill out.

The reason you are asked to enter a username and password is so afterward you will be able to log into the discussion and participate!

Registration Information	
Items marked with a * are required unless stated otherwise.	
Username: *	<input type="text"/>
E-mail address: *	<input type="text"/>
Password: *	<input type="password"/>
Confirm password: *	<input type="password"/>
Profile Infor	
This information will be publicly viewable	
ICQ Number:	<input type="text"/>

2. Logging in

To log into the discussion forum, at the top right of the first page there are text boxes to enter the username, password (these are the username and password you chose during registration)



Where can I get more information?

For a simple guide on the basics of the Discussion Forum, please refer to Quick Start document on the VICS web-site.

For more detailed information on how to use the Discussion Forum, there are some great resources of phpBB's homepage. These include

- Flash Tutorials which have a step-by-step guide to many of phpBB's features
- Userguide which is made up of installation guide and full documentation to the forum system
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Area for people to post questions

These can be found on <http://www.phpbb.com/support/>.