



Pikler Institute, Budapest, Hungary



PIKLER/LÓCZY FUND USA

WELL-BEING FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

A Message from the Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA Board of Directors

Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA
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On behalf of the PLUSA Board of Directors, we would like to thank all of you for writing to the Hungarian government about how the Pikler Institute has influenced your work with children and professionals in the early childhood field all over the world. In this newsletter, we have reprinted some of your remarks. Please go to our website to read some of the letters in their entirety.

Although the Pikler Institute is now closed, PLUSA is continuing its work. The Pikler Associations around the world are growing stronger and more committed than ever.

- The Pikler network in South America (Nuestra America) is organizing many special trainings and conferences in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador. In Ecuador, Bernard Josse and Etienne Moine have made a film "GRANDIR" about AMI children's home in Pifo, Ecuador managed by Maria and Etienne. You can read about AMI in Child Care Information Exchange Magazine which is posted on our website, or consulting AMI



Pikler Board with Anna Tardos, Director of the Pikler Institute: Front row: left to right - Janet Gonzalez-Mena, Johanna Herwitz. Back row: Denise DaRos Vosales, Agnes Szanto, Anna Tardos, Intisar Shareef, Beverly Kovach, Laura Briley.

website: www.fundacionami.org.ec

- One of our board members, Agnes Szanto from Paris has written a Spanish language book about the Pikler approach to infant movement.
- Pikler trainings are going on in England and Germany.
- Anna Tardos, the Director of the Pikler Institute has written an article for Child Care Information Exchange

and will be writing more articles about infants for the magazine. She also wrote several articles for the Signal (International Infant Mental Health Assoc. newsletter).

- One of our board members, Janet Gonzalez-Mena is going to be the keynote speaker at a conference in Sao Paulo Brazil in November, 2011.

Continued to back page

Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA Mission:

We want to inspire adults to the wonder and harmony of a close and personal relationship with infants and toddlers in home and group settings. This approach is based on the work of Dr. Emmi Pikler from Budapest, Hungary. Our commitment to service, training, and research demonstrates our belief that all children have the right to be respected as competent and autonomous individuals by a caring adult.

Introducing: Johanna Herwitz, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Parent/Infant Specialist, RIE Associate and PLUSA Board of Director

Johanna Herwitz, Ph.D. is a licensed Clinical Psychologist, Parent/Infant Specialist, RIE Associate and PLUSA Board of Directors member. She lives in New York City with her husband and three children and facilitates workshops for new parents and caregivers through Spring OB/GYN, 135 Spring Street, NYC. For information about RIE Parent-Infant classes, private consultations and other workshops, visit www.mindfulparentingnyc.com or visit www.springobgyn.com.

Workshop for Busy Parents and Parents-to-Be

Packed with useful information presented in a unique format that provides new or expecting parents with many of the essentials they need to care for their newborn babies with confidence.



Parent infant class, Tulsa, OK.

Dates for your calendar:

13th Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health in Cape Town, South Africa, April 17-21, 2012

Central theme for this year's congress is Babies in Mind – The Mind of Babies. One of the five plenary speakers will be Arnold Sameroff with the title Creating Futures: The Secrets of Human Development. Look at the program highlights in the call for papers for more information on sight seeing and tours. Please visit our website at: www.waimh.org or contact: Onscreen Conferences and Events, Jolandi Ackermann, Tel. +27 79 885 1515 / email: jolandi@onscreenav.co.za.

Pikler English language training course in Budapest, Hungarian, June 2012

Offered by the Hungarian Pikler-Loczy Association. Applications can be sent to the email address: pikler-tardos@t-online.hu. To read more about these courses visit our website at: www.pikler.org/training.html.

1st level course in English in 2012: June 4 – June 15, 2012. During the course we will discuss the importance of self-initiated movement and development of play and its inner regularities led by Anna Tardos and other experienced members of the institute.

2nd level course in English in 2012: July 9 – July 20, 2012. This course is for professionals who have already participated in the two weeks Summer-course in the Pikler Institute in Budapest between 2004-2011.

Pikler Intensive III Training, October 22-27, 2012

Theme for this year is on Observations with trainers, Anna Tardos from Budapest and Agnes Szanto from Paris.

International Infant and Toddler Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 11-13, 2013

Presented by the Child Care Resource Center, a program of the Community Service Council of Tulsa. For more information contact 918-831-7237.



Enid Elliot and Laura Briley with the Pikler Intensive II cake looking forward to Intensive III.



Being with Babies

by Anna Tardos

Babies have a marvelous affect on us. They enchant us. They touch us very profoundly. I think I am not mistaken to claim that nobody could go past even a stranger's baby stroller without stopping and smiling at it. Every baby and, of course, our own children awaken indescribable emotions in us. We bend over our babies again and again and take pleasure in them when they are asleep, and watch for their smiles when they are awake. We would most of all love to constantly hold them in our arms.

All of the above is true. And yet, not quite. Many times it happens that in the important moments of being together we do not really pay attention to them, because we are preoccupied with the tasks relating to them: putting on their shirts, wiping their bottoms, adjusting their diapers. We touch them, move them around, and sometimes fail to notice the expectation in their gaze as they look at us. We don't think about how happy they would be 'to help' if we had a discussion with them in the meantime, and if we told them what we were up to:

"Now, I am going to take off your diaper to see if there is anything in it. I am going to wipe your skin, lift your bottom. Will you allow me to do that? Now, I am going to put this coat on you. You see how pretty it is? Your grandmother made it for you. First I am pulling up on one arm, then the other. I have to lift you up a little bit. It's not very easy, but we have made it."

Would they help? Yes. The baby would pay attention to what we are doing, would relax his arms, and, at the age of only a few months, he would reach his arms towards us when we show him the shirt. A real conversation can be formed this



Photo taken in the Pikler Institute by Reismann.

way between the adult and the baby. In this way, the hasty and careless movements that often cast a shadow on the joint activity during times spent together could be avoided.

Outside the family setting, it is especially dangerous if the activity of changing and dressing the baby is not done in this joyous way. In a child care center or an institution, the baby is taken care of not by his mother, father, or grandmother looking at him with loving pride, but another person: a professional, a caregiver, an educator.

How can it be helped? Should the caregiver be expected to love every child she has to take care of like a mother? But that is impossible. Yes, that is impossible.

Article edited for length. To read the article in its entirety visit our website at: www.pikler.org/images/BabiesAnnaTardos.pdf.

Love cannot be prescribed, especially not motherly affections. But it can be helped. There are some small, very simple rules, and, if the caregiver follows them, the atmosphere of being together will be completely different, and it will be more and more pleasurable for both the baby and the adult to be together during care. Eventually, with time, the adult will not have to think about the rules and follow them. It becomes natural that she approaches the baby as a partner, with personal interest and tactfulness, and her wiping, cleaning, undressing, and dressing him and changing his diaper will ultimately be the meeting of two human beings. A real encounter, when the infant is not only the object of everything happening to him, but a participant as well.

Anna Tardos is a child psychologist and director of the Pikler Institute in Budapest, Hungary. She is honestly interested in the results, in your experiences, and looks forward to your letters. You can reach her at A.tardos@freemail.hu. To read the complete article visit our website at: www.pikler.org. Reprinted with permission from Exchange magazine. Visit us at www.ChildCareExchange.com or call (800) 221-2864.

World-wide requests from prominent early childhood professionals to the Hungarian Prime Minister Orban



“Dr. Pikler’s research and of others at the Institute, has been so important in my work with infants and toddlers and their caregivers in the USA. No one else has ever been able to replicate her studies of the natural physical development of infants because of the unique opportunities afforded by the Institute; her perspective on the importance of secure attachment between infants and their non-maternal caregivers, and how to foster it, has had vast influence throughout the world for children without families and for children who are separated daily from their parents during working hours.”

Ruth Anne Hammond, past Board President of RIE (Resources for Infant Educators) Los Angeles, CA

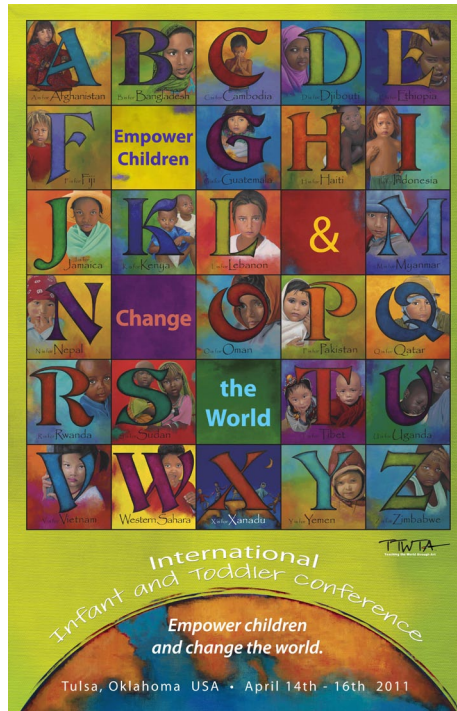


“At this time when humanity is facing such darkness: many wars, the constant threat of terrorism – the Pikler Institute is a rare source of hope and inspiration. The infants of the world cannot advocate for themselves or for keeping the Pikler Institute whole. But, I know that if they could speak there would be one collective voice saying “No” to destroying the legacy and the work of Dr. Emmi Pikler. The world has learned from Dr. Pikler, from her methods and from her colleagues. The world needs this treasure in Budapest and elsewhere. Please do not destroy our hope.”

Harold Rosenthal, P.T., P.C., New York, NY



“It is critical that we not lose the invaluable work of the Pikler Institute. If we don’t recognize how early care of children affects the grown adult’s capacity



Poster for the IITC conference in Tulsa, 2011 by artist Caryn West.

to become a responsible citizen, then we will continue to have to pay huge amounts of money to build and staff prisons and mental institutions. Scientists have shown through their research of the brain what the Pikler Institute understood through many years of observation and sensitive care of children. Those children who do not receive the stability, consistency and dedication of sensitive, caring and trained adults will not develop that part of the brain which allows for consideration of other’s feelings or perspectives. When the brains of murderers have been compared with the brains of other male brains they find holes in the prefrontal cortex of the murderers. This is also the case of Romanian orphans who have not experienced a stable, caring relationship.”

Maureen Perry, Baby First, Mangawhai, New Zealand



“Pikler has made Hungary a mecca for thousands of us around the world, a place to come to and learn what is taught nowhere else. Part of the learning has been to see how Pikler theories and practices work with real children in group care.”

Janet Gonzalez-Mena, Author and International trainer, San Francisco, CA



“I have been an early childhood educator of 30 years experience and use the insights of Dr. Emmi Pikler in my work daily with the children in my care. Dr. Pikler’s work is a legacy of conscientious, respectful caregiving of babies and young children from which thousands of professionals worldwide have learned to see and work with the children in their care with very different eyes than what they might have learned in any teacher training program in universities.”

Joyce Gallardo, Waldorf, Hillsdale, NY



“The work of Emmi Pikler was the subject of my thesis at Smith College School for Social Work, a college of considerable reputation for its academic rigor and quality. This undersupported body of knowledge and work is miraculously beginning to find its way into academic culture. It is important to note that the most current neurobiological research on education, learning and psychological health are suggesting that optimal care of infants and children include exactly what the Pikler Institute is teaching and promoting in the care of infants and children.”

Mary Triulzi, LCSW, Hadley, Ma.

Pikler Intensive I and II – April 2010 and 2011, Temple Israel Day Schools, Tulsa, OK



Pikler Intensive I faculty with Anna (center).



Pikler Intensive I participants.



Pikler Intensive II, Tulsa Rose Garden.

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Message from the Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA Board – continued from page 1

- We are translating and publishing a piece of work done by Dr. Judit Falk (the previous director of the Pikler Institute). The article is about the practice of “tummy time”. This should be available for purchase before the end of 2011.
- There will be another English Pikler Training Institute in June, 2012 in Budapest, Hungary.
- Anna Tardos and Agnes Szanto will be coming to the USA in October, 2012 for a Pikler Intensive III training.
- We are collaborating with the government of Belize to provide training for orphanage workers in Belize and Central America in October, 2012.

• There will be an International Infant and Toddler Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2013, April 11-13, 2013.

The times are changing, and there are many opportunities for us to continue to learn and grow from the work and research that is being done and has been done by practitioners of Dr. Pikler’s approach. We can only continue doing the work that Dr. Emmi Pikler began in the 1930s. We want to make sure that her influence and the work of the clinicians at the Pikler Institute continues to make a difference in the lives of children throughout the world.

*From our heart to yours,
Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA
Board of Directors*



Front row left to right: Judith Alpuche, Belize CEO of Ministry of Human Development, Kim Simplis Barrow wife of Prime Minister of Belize, Elsa Chahin PLUSA board member. Back row: Delfena Mitchell, Director of Liberty, Belize and Laura Briley PLUSA Board member. Photo taken at the World Forum in Hawaii, May, 2011

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