



PIKLER/LÓCZY FUND USA

Pikler Institute, Budapest, Hungary



WELL-BEING FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

The Working Group for Rights of Children Without Families

The Working Group for Rights of Children Without Families was launched at the 2009 World Forum on Early Care and Education in Belfast, Ireland in June. The Working Group represents 10 countries who work in institutions. Representatives attending the conference came from El Salvador, Ecuador, Singapore, Nicaragua, France, Hungary, Belize, Mexico, Indonesia and the USA.

The group was formed with the belief that all children should have a benefit of being raised by their birth parents. Yet,

that is not always viable due to death of a parent or parents, abandonment, illness, abuse, natural disasters and war. It is paramount that each country be ready to provide children the best care if their fate is to lose their family and they are placed in a group care setting through no fault of their own. We want institutions to be successful in caring for these children by providing them with support and ongoing trainings.

One of the goals is materializing, as Delfena Mitchell, Director of Liberty Children's Home and the World Forum National Representative in Belize, has set up a meeting with the Ambassador of Belize, Nestor Mendez in Washington, D.C. on November 18 with Janet Gonzalez-Mena and Laura Briley to discuss how the Working Group can assist in Belize.

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Above: The Working Group for Rights of Children Without Families at the World Forum in Belfast, Ireland – June, 2009. Background: Northern Ireland Giant's Causeway.



Above: Anna Tardos, Director of the Pikler Institute and Laura Briley, Chairman Pikler-Lóczy USA.



Puspita Sivan, Singapore and Anna Tardos.

The Working Group has developed four goals during the 2009 World Forum:

1. Publish a book with the help of the World Forum, the Indonesian Government and the board of Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA. This book will include stories from our group who are working in Hungary, Belize, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Indonesia and France.
2. Build a network of Children's Homes throughout the world and link with them to share information with each other as well as support.
3. Organize a conference for those working in institutions to further aid their training and education.
4. Send a delegation to the United Nations to voice our resolution that these children be given every opportunity to live in an environment that is safe, nurturing and receive responsive care from trained, educated adults. This training and care will give them the opportunity to become a contributing member of our society.

Members of the 2009 Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA (PLUSA) Board of Directors

Pictured left to right:
Laura Briley, Alexandra
Curtis Boyer, Barbara
Schuman, Janet
Gonzalez-Mena, Denise
Da Ros-Voseles,
Beverly Kovach at
the Pikler/Lóczy Fund
USA board meeting,
September 2009, Tulsa,
Oklahoma.



and international conferences and publishes on topics ranging from creating caring environments and working with infants and toddlers to working with pre-service teachers. Her latest book, co-authored with Beverly Kovach, MN is *Being with Babies*.

Barbara Shuman has worked with infants and toddlers for the past seven years as a Montessori certified teacher. Originally from France, Barbara began her career with young children upon moving to the US in 2000. Barbara has presented in multiple national conferences and has been a frequent student at the Pikler Institute, most recently attending the Summer Intensive. As a RIE Associate, Barbara has worked in multiple socioeconomic settings to implement RIE and Pikler principles in center-based care. She is the infant and toddler coordinator at Charlestowne Montessori School in Charleston, SC and will graduate in December with a BA in psychology.

We would like to highlight our three newest board members. We extend a most warm and enthusiastic welcome to our new members:

Intisar Shareef, Ed. D has dedicated her life to teaching adults to work with children. She is the chair of Contra Costa College's Early Childhood Education Department in Martinez, CA and is on the faculty of WestEd's Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC). Dr. Shareef has trained Head Start staff, preschool teachers, childcare providers, parents and foster

parents in the field of early childhood education for over 30 years. She comments, "I actually saw Dr. Pikler when she made a rare visit to the United States in 1979 to conduct a presentation. I never realized that my career would come full-circle and that I would one day be teaching her principles to others."

Denise A. Da Ros-Voseles, PhD is an associate professor in the Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction at Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow, OK. Denise began her career working with abused and neglected infants and toddlers. She speaks at national

PLUSA Board Members

Laura Briley – Chair
Beverly A. Kovach, MN – Vice Chair
Janet Gonzalez-Mena, MA – Secretary
George M. Pikler, MD – Treasurer
Elsa Chahin – Public Relations Ambassador
Alexandra Curtis Boyer
Agnes Szántó-Féder, PhD
Johanna Herwitz, PhD

What the Heck?!? . . . Baby Bedtime Blues

September 17 at the Day Schools/Temple Israel campus., Alex Curtis-Boyer, international infant and toddler specialist, PLUSA board member and author of *Simple Toys* presented her methods on how to handle baby's sleep issues that pop up for the first three years of life. A follow up article by Shelley Heckenkemper was published in the Mom's Journal column of the November issue of *Tulsa Kids!* (See www.tulsakids.com)



Dates for your 2010 calendar:

- **Pikler Institute Summer Course at Pikler Institute Budapest, Hungary – Intensive I Summer Course: June 7-18, 2010; Intensive II Summer Course July 5-16, 2010.** The Second Level summer course (Intensive II) is for professionals who have already participated in the two week-long Summer-courses at the Pikler Institute in Budapest between 2004-2009 and who are involved in dealing with children, parents or educators. See www.pikler.org for details.
- **21st Annual RIE Infant/Toddler Conference for Parents and Professionals, June 6, 2010** at the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, California. Online registration opens November 16, 2009.
- **RIE I Fundamentals, Theory & Observation with Beverly Kovach, June 20-29, 2010, Tulsa, Oklahoma.** Overview of RIE Approach, including psycho-motor development, social-emotional development, designing appropriate environments, planning the curriculum, issues in parenting, and observational skills and visits to infant and toddler programs. Enrollment: lbriley@dayschoolsok.com or call 918 747-3122.

International Pikler (Lóczy) Organizations and Associations

The success of the Pikler Institute has been recognized by the World Health Organization, and the concepts and practices have been translated globally with the establishment of Pikler/Lóczy Associations in France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, Holland, and Argentina. (See sidebar).

Goals: The goal of these associations is to bring the resources to a global community that will help ensure a mutually respectful, fulfilling partnership between children, parents and caregivers. The International



Pikler (Lóczy) Association was formed in 1997 in an effort to raise funds to ensure the survival of the Pikler (Lóczy) Institute in Budapest when the Hungarian government was no longer able to lend its support. Most recently, the Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA has been formed in the United States to serve as a central information base for these fund raising efforts.

Dear Friends,

This year we have lost two important individuals who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Pikler Institute and infants and toddlers. They are Dr. Maria Vincze and Istvan Szanto. We will always remember what they gave of themselves to carry on the work of Dr. Pikler. They were the taskmasters and provided the light for the lighthouse in Budapest and around the world. They were committed to

help the world learn about respect and individuality of the child and to guarantee quality care for these children who had no families. They were true humanitarians and we want the world to know how valuable their work has been. If you would like to honor them, a donation to the Pikler Institute could be made. Please make it payable to the Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA for the Pikler Institute.

Make your tax deductible donation for 2009 to Pikler/Lóczy Fund USA.

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

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Mail to: Pikler/Lóczy Fund
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Pikler Associations

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Introduction to the Pikler Approach – Tulsa, OK, April 16-17, 2010

International Experts: Anna Tardos, Agnes Szanto and Elsa Chahin Participants will receive CEUs from Tulsa Technology Center

This introductory workshop to the Pikler Approach will review the importance of self-initiated movement and development of play, its inner regularities, the often overlooked stages of this development, and the conditions of such development. The workshop will highlight the importance of careful and attentive physical care and its basic principles. The workshop will also discuss and compare the characteristic features of the parent-child relationship and the relationship between the child and the professional child care provider. Emmi Pikler's name is more and more well-known among academics working with young children around the world. They apply her care-giving principles to allow freedom for the child, helping to ensure their life together is relationship-based and full of respect for each other.

Participants attending the Friday evening, April 16 and an all-day Saturday, April 17 workshop presentation in Tulsa will gain information directly from Dr. Pikler's daughter, Anna Tardos and her colleague Agnes Szántó-Féder. Anna Tardos is a psychologist and Director of the International Emmi Pikler Public Foundation in Budapest and Agnes Szántó-Féder of Paris, is an experienced member of the Pikler Institute.

Workshop participants will deepen their knowledge about infant-toddler care and education through learning about our most important pedagogical principles, everyday experiences and also about the results of research carried out by the Pikler Institute.

Registration for the April 16-17 Infant and Toddler Introductory Workshop in Tulsa, OK is still open. To register, please contact Laura Briley at lbriley@dayschoolsok.com or Tel: 918.747.3122; Fax: 918.665.0965. Early bird registration will be \$245 until January 15, 2010. After January 15, the price will be \$295.



Save the Date!



**International
infant & toddler
conference**

**2nd Conference
April 2011, Tulsa, Oklahoma USA**

more details available the summer of 2010 at
www.ccrctulsa.org or contact Laura Briley at
918.810.0877 or lbriley@dayschoolsok.com

The Pikler-Lóczy Fund USA

The Pikler-Lóczy Fund USA's mission is to actively support the work of Dr. Emmi Pikler and the Pikler Institute in Budapest, Hungary.

Its goal is to inspire adults to embrace the wonder and harmony of a close and personal relationship with infants and toddlers based on the Pikler approach in home and group settings. It is committed to service, training and research and demonstrating the belief that all children have the right to be respected as competent and autonomous individuals by a caring adult.

Next Issue:

- Pikler/Loczy Fund USA Exhibits at NAEYC (National Association of the Education of Young Children conference in Washington, D.C., November 18-21, 2009 by Beverly Kovach.
- Interview of Belize Ambassador, Nestor Mendez by Janet Gonzalez-Mena

Pikler/Loczy Fund USA Exhibits at last year's NAEYC conference held in Dallas, TX.

