

SOPHIA'S HEARTH FAMILY CENTER

THE CHILD IN THE FIRST THREE YEARS



FEATURING...

A holistic, inspiring study of the development of the young child and the experience of creating a family

A new opportunity for early childhood teachers, child care providers in both home and center programs; parents and expectant parents, play group leaders, parent-infant & toddler teachers

200 contact hours in summer, autumn, and spring modules over 14 months



PART-TIME TRAINING COURSE

2006 – 2007

36 Carpenter Street • Keene, NH • 03431 • 603-357-3755

THE CHILD IN THE FIRST THREE YEARS

We recognize that each infant and young child is an embryonic adult, full of mysteries and gifts yet to unfold that arise from an essential spiritual center, deserving of the highest respect and gentlest care.



Ours is a time of challenge for infants and young children, as the world around them attempts to minimize the innate timeliness and protection needed for their full blossoming. Our training honors the fullness of time deserved by each child, and prepares those who live with and care for very young children with the insights and practical capacities to offer care and guidance in a loving, inspired way.

Our program prepares you to create . . .

- A warm, loving family of your own
- Child care programs that respect each child and family
- Parent-infant & toddler programs that nurture each child and parent
- Pre-natal programs that strengthen new families.

The course is founded upon the joy of learning together with others who share a deep commitment to very young children. Study with gifted, devoted faculty, as you experience handwork and the arts, reading and journal activity, the art of observation, and further develop your own relationship to movement. All are woven together for this special program.

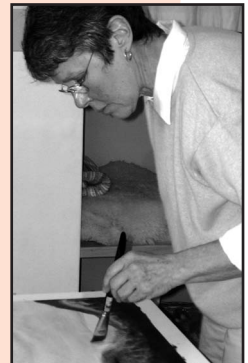


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PROGRAM GOALS:

Our course participants will . . .

- Understand Waldorf education's insights into the physical, cognitive, social-emotional, and spiritual developmental stages of the child and family in the first three years, as well as the essential elements in the work of Emmi Pikler and RIE™
- Understand the unfolding of the young child's sensory organs and approaches to supporting their healthy development
- Extend awareness of research related to their work, through an independent research project shared with classmates
- Gain insights into phases of adult development and group facilitation
- Understand the experience of a family in welcoming a new child
- Deepen insights and skills for bodily care of the young child (rhythm, warmth, nutrition, infant massage, cooperative care giving, sleep)
- Develop musical and hand craft capacities, storytelling insights, simple puppetry and toy making skills, along with a repertoire of songs and hand gesture games
- Be prepared in a practical way to initiate and sustain programs for expectant parents, infants and toddlers in parent-infant groups and child care
- Develop personal movement capacities through work in eurythmy and Spatial Dynamics®
- Collect a repertoire of written materials to share with parents for reflection and conversation





PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Each residential program module includes movement, hand craft, and artistic experiences to rejuvenate and refresh each participant while building a joyful community. Modules are arranged sequentially to support your work with children and families.

SUMMER I, 2006 2 WEEK SESSION, JULY 3 - 14

Study of the physical, cognitive, social-emotional and spiritual developmental stages of the child and family in the first three years; the healthy development of the will. In-depth introduction to the essential elements in the work of Emmi Pikler and RIE™: respectful care giving, support of motor development in the young child, using observation as a key to understanding.

FALL 2006 4 DAY NOVEMBER SESSION (to be scheduled)

Exploration of program models for childcare, infant and toddler playgroups with parents; language development and nutrition; development of background for a personal research project to be presented during the spring module.

SPRING 2007 4 DAY APRIL SESSION (to be scheduled)

Study of the bodily care of the very young child, including practical experiences; exploration of biographical phases of adult development and group facilitation skills; sharing of independent study prepared during the winter.

SUMMER II, 2007 2 WEEK SESSION (to be scheduled)

Supporting healthy development in the early years – topics include the nurturing benefit of domestic activity, learning through imitation of life around the child, creative play, guiding children toward healthy self discipline. Creating program models that support these themes will be a part of this module.

“I feel concious in a way that I was not before... I have insights and perspectives that I can put to work right away and all for the good of the children in my care.”

– Program participant, Summer 2004

FACULTY



CO-DIRECTORS:



Susan Weber is the director of Sophia's Hearth Family Center. She has worked with children and families for over thirty years. An experienced public school and Waldorf teacher, she has completed RIE Level I training and studied at the Pikler Institute in Budapest. She facilitates parent-infant and toddler playgroups at Sophia's Hearth. Formerly coordinator of Waldorf early childhood teacher training at Antioch New England Graduate School, she lectures and publishes internationally.

Jane Swain practices physical therapy with infants, children, and adults. Trained in sensory integration and neurodevelopmental treatment, she has worked with children from a wide range of special needs for many years. She has completed a five-year training and is pursuing advanced studies in Spatial Dynamics[®] with Jaimen McMillan. She teaches movement education at Monadnock Waldorf School, and is an enthusiastic expert in children's games.



COLLABORATING FACULTY MEMBERS:

Molly Amies, a eurythmist and faculty member with the School of Eurythmy in Spring Valley, NY is performing artist and teacher.

Helle Heckmann, of Copenhagen, Denmark is founder of the Waldorf childcare *Nøkken*. An international consultant and teacher, she has worked with Sophia's Hearth for many years.

Connie Manson of Sarasota, FL is a master puppeteer, musician, and Waldorf early childhood teacher.

Nancy Mellon is a master storyteller from New Hampshire.

Genelle Mikkalson of Marlborough, NH is a midwife and obstetrical nurse with a deep interest in the experience of women in motherhood.

Carol Pinto of Los Angeles, CA is a RIE Associate, and has worked with parents and young children for many years. She is a trained Feldenkrais[™] practitioner.

Bernadette Raichle of Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, pioneered a childcare center based on Waldorf education that was the first of its kind in her region.

Ute Strub from Berlin, Germany teaches at the Pikler Institute. A physical therapist who works with the approach of Elfriede Hengstenberg, she specializes in movement education with children and teaches adults worldwide.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

TUITION for the program is \$4,050, payable in four installments. Tuition includes delicious organically prepared group lunches each day. Participants whose applications are received prior to May 1st will receive a \$200 discount for the complete program.

DEPOSIT: a non-refundable deposit (except in case of course cancellation) of \$200 is required upon acceptance.

HOUSING in the local area will be secured and paid for by each individual participant. Upon enrolling, participants will receive information about a variety of local housing opportunities.

SCHOLARSHIP: Sophia's Hearth makes every effort to offer financial assistance to students who require support to attend. Financial assistance applications are available upon request.

LOCATION: Sophia's Hearth Family Center is located in Keene, in the beautiful Monadnock region of southwest New Hampshire. Keene is close to recreational opportunities for every season. Hiking, walking, boating, swimming, skiing, and biking are all near at hand. Keene is a 1½ - 2 hour drive from three major airports: Manchester (NH), Hartford (CT), and Boston Logan (MA); bus and train service are also possible.

ABOUT SOPHIA'S HEARTH

SOPHIA'S HEARTH Family Center was founded in 1998 to support families and educators of very young children, through providing educational programs for parents and professionals. Our work is based upon the insights of Rudolf Steiner and Waldorf education, building bridges to others with compatible insights.

Sophia's Hearth is designing a new facility that will include space for full time childcare, programs for parents with children, as well as adult professional development.

Sophia's Hearth Family Center works especially closely with the insights of Hungarian pediatrician Emmi Pikler, and Magda Gerber, founder of RIE (Resources for Infant Educators). RIE is a non-profit organization dedicated to infants and their caregivers.

PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Affiliation (Home, school, other program)

On a separate page, please share the following information:

Your educational and professional background

Your experiences with very young children

Your familiarity with RIE, the work of Emmi Pikler, Waldorf education,
and early childhood best practices

Your reasons for being interested in this program

Please include one reference from someone familiar with your work with young children.

Send application with \$30 application fee to Sophia's Hearth Family Center.

Course is dependent upon minimum enrollment; your timely application is appreciated.



info@sophiashearth.org · www.sophiashearth.org

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