

Forever Young News

January 2010

RIE at FY!

Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) was founded in 1978 by the late educator and infant specialist Magda Gerber and pediatric neurologist Tom Forrest, M.D. Forever Young has used the RIE Approach since FY's founding in 1979. Here are some of the basic principles:

Based on respect, the RIE Approach helps parents and caregivers to raise authentic infants who are [competent](#), [confident](#), [curious](#), [attentive](#), [exploring](#), [cooperative](#), [secure](#), [peaceful](#), [focused](#), [self-initiating](#), [resourceful](#), [involved](#), [inner-directed](#), [aware](#), and [interested](#). Gerber further explains these concepts:

competent: If we could observe and see infants as completely competent for the stage at which they are, we would learn from and about them rather than teach them.

confident: The development of a child's confidence is a slow process established in infancy and childhood, based on security and mastery. Time and opportunity for achieving success in completing tasks during play are important for a child's developing sense of self.

curious: Curiosity is a natural trait in children. It is the doorway to creativity, and should be appreciated and nurtured. Let your child's natural curiosity develop by letting him explore on his own rather than guiding him. Natural curiosity leads to the joy of discovery. Life is, after all, looking at situations and seeing what fits, or is appropriate to do, like figuring out how to assemble a puzzle.

attentive: The less we interrupt, the more easily infants develop a long attention span. If infants are well cared for, if they can do what they happen to be interested in at that time, and if nobody interrupts, they have much longer attention spans than we give them credit for.

exploring: Young children are explorers and initiators. They learn in spite of what we teach. A safe environment in which the baby can move and explore provides the kind of learning experience the child profits from the most. When infants have enough space, safe space, they will do exactly the movements that they are ready for because they have the opportunity.

cooperative: Cooperation is encouraged during caregiving times. Your goal is to encourage your child's active involvement by inviting her to become part of the process. For example, during diapering you can talk to your baby and ask for her cooperation, even if she can't yet understand you. This sets up the beginning of a dialogue between you that promotes cooperation.

secure: Babies communicate from birth. If your attitude is, "I cannot know automatically what you need; please tell me," then the baby will learn to give you cues, and a dialogue will develop. Being understood creates security, trust and confidence.

peaceful: Your child will derive a sense of peace as well as competence if you support her in developing naturally, according to her own rhythm.

focused: Non-interruption of play helps children develop competence in problem-solving skills.

self-initiating: We have basic trust in the infant to be an initiator, to be an explorer eager to learn what he is ready for. Because of this trust, we provide the infant with only enough help necessary to allow the child to enjoy mastery of her own actions.

resourceful: Contrary to grown-ups' expectations, infants usually do not get overly frustrated by struggles during play. When a toy gets caught or a ball rolls away, they may even enjoy the situation and certainly learn from it if adults do not solve the problem for them.

involved: As we observe infants, it almost looks as if they are working rather than playing: they are fully involved, absorbed in what they are doing. We don't need to invent exercises for them. They learn to follow their instincts and to trust their own judgment.

inner-directed: It can be difficult to step back and let your child take the lead, but in this way you will observe and learn from her. You will discover with delight that your child has many inherent abilities that might have been missed if she had not been allowed to explore in her own way.

aware: Once, many years ago, I saw an infant lying on the floor who was trying to catch something in a very dreamy, beautiful way. I didn't see anything, but I knew that the child saw something. Only as I walked around did I realize that the dust in the air was creating a rainbow, and that's what the child saw.

That experience stayed with me as a symbolic reminder, so that now when people do things, I want to say, "That child may just see the rainbow, don't interrupt. Wait."

interested: When an infant repeats an action many, many times, he is not bored. Rather, he is learning thoroughly about that action, making it a part of himself and his world. When he has learned it to his own satisfaction, he will move on to another new activity.

This information was gathered from www.rie.org. Log on to learn more!

Forever Young
will be
closed on
Monday
January 18
*(Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day)*

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Reminder:

Parent's Meeting
Tuesday,
January 12, 2009,
6:15 pm
at the Preschool
2100 J Street



FOREVER YOUNG CHILD CARE CENTER, INC.

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