

RIE Basics

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



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Magda Gerber and Resources for Infant Educators (RIE)

Magda Gerber studied under the famous pediatrician, Emmi Pikler, in Hungary. Pikler founded Loczy, later known as The Pikler Institute, an orphanage in Budapest whose children didn't have the typical institutional damage common in other orphans. Inspired by her work with Pikler, Magda Gerber began sharing her ideas when she immigrated to the United States. Magda Gerber founded Resources for Infant Educators (RIE) based on simple principles of intentional infant care and education that she called educating.

Educaring Principles

- Respect
- Basic trust in the infant to be an initiator, an explorer, and a self-learner.
- Time for uninterrupted play.
- Freedom to explore and interact with other infants.
- Sensitive observation of the infant in order to understand the infant's needs.
- Listen to children's cry to understand what they are trying to communicate and start a calm dialogue to offer comfort and assurance.
- An Environment for the infant that is physically safe, cognitively challenging, and emotionally nurturing.
- Involvement of the infant in all care activities to allow the infant to become an Active Participant rather than a passive recipient.
- Consistency, communication, clearly-defined limits, and expectations to develop self-regulation and self-discipline.
- Attuned care that responds gently, not reacting to children, prepares children for separation and confident independence.

Talk Before You Touch

Always tell children what you're going to do before you do it. This supports respect, consistency, trust, and attuned care.

Wants Something, Wants Nothing, and Joy Time

Educators plan for three types of interactions with young children.

- **Wants-something time** is the routine times when children are supported to get a diaper changed, take a nap, get dressed, or get buckled into their car seat. The role of the adult is to prepare children for cooperation by communicating the expectations, and talking children through the process. The goal is for the child to be an active participant in their care and routines.
- **Wants-nothing time** is the time when children play uninterrupted. This can be challenging for adults, but your role is to observe, if you wish, while allowing the child to play. Give children time to move freely, explore, experience frustration, and work out problems. Dictate or coach if necessary, smile if looked to for assurance, but try not to interrupt.
- **Joy time** is the cuddly, story reading, game playing, time of love. Adults can engage and connect with their young child following their cues, but play joyfully.

Learn More

- Resources for Infant Educators in Los Angeles Online at www.rie.org
- RIE Associate's Blogs - www.regardingbaby.org and www.janetlansbury.com
- Magda Gerber - DEAR PARENT: CARING FOR INFANTS WITH RESPECT - YOUR SELF CONFIDENT BABY
- Janet Lansbury - ELEVATING CHILD CARE - NO BAD KIDS
- Debora Carlisle Soloman - BABY KNOWS BEST
- Irene Van der Zande - 1, 2, 3... THE TODDLER YEARS