

Smart Love® Newsletter



Busy, Busy Bees! Our 'Playschool' program for 2s & 3s is a hit!

As soon as the front door opens every morning children sprint to their classroom excited to discover what new and fun things they will learn and do that day. And, as one parent put it, "What a fantastic beginning to their school experience!"

Children easily engage with their teacher discovering sand table tea parties, "tape" floor streets, picture book readings, Magna-Tile and block structures, dress-up clothes, and so much more. Classroom activities are designed to stimulate their curiosity and foster exploration. With teachers' consistent, supportive responses and encouragement each 2-3 year old feels ready to branch out and explore new things. With each new step, our toddlers are more confident and competent in the classroom. This in turn makes coming to school enjoyable and exciting for them.

Learning about community is also a key feature of "Playschool." A wonderful example is snack time, when all the children come together and learn about each other. Something that the children love to do during snack time is listen to the sound of each other's pretzel crunch. "Do you

want to hear my crunch?" they ask as everyone leans in to hear. Each child takes a turn and the others patiently wait for their turns! By having fun while "taking turns", the children discover for themselves how good it feels to be heard and to hear others.

The Smart Love approach to early childhood education creates a positive school experience with a gentle separation process, making the transition to school so much easier and enjoyable for parents and children alike. We familiarize the children with a routine and activities similar to the preschool but age-appropriate for a 2-3 year-old. We also offer classes for children under 2 and their parent/caregiver.

Since our doors opened in October, the number of families coming to Smart Love has been steadily growing as word is spreading. If you have questions or are interested in enrolling your child, please contact our Preschool Director Kelly Perez at kelly.perez@smartlovetfamily.org or 773.665.8052 ext. 120.

Introduce your toddler to Smart Love Preschool

- Free Toddler Story & Play Date once a month. Check our website for dates and times. www.smartlovetpreschool.org
- Try a Free Toddler Explorations Class Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Please email kelly.perez@smartlovetfamily.org to sign up.
- Drop-In Classes for toddlers 12 – 36 months | Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. | Register on our site: www.smartlovetfamily.org

PRESCHOOL



Children's Garden Planted and Growing!

For the past eight years, the Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool has integrated a gardening and nature curriculum into its early childhood education program, and it has become one of the most beloved aspects of the preschool. With organic gardens planted and tended by the children, the teachers offer abundant opportunities for play-based experiences to enrich learning in an environmentally conscious context.

Our gardener-in-residence works with each classroom teacher to develop lesson plans and activities that are meaningful to the children. The gardener also manages the garden and leads many of the activities. Hands-on learning in the garden and the season-extending greenhouse as well as in the classroom (e.g. seeds starts, worm bed, and garden activities) takes place all year long. As children work together to create, maintain and enjoy their school garden, they are exposed to concepts such as symbiotic relationships of plants and animals, solar energy, plant lifecycles, photosynthesis, cooperation, environmental stewardship and ecological awareness.



Last December, a team of intrepid volunteers from the tax department at Exelon braved a brutally cold day to re-build the greenhouse that moved with us to our new home in Logan Square from our former campus in Buena Park. We are so grateful for their hard work since, with the planting season now underway, the preschoolers are getting the seed starts and other plants that have been nurtured in the greenhouse into the ground on schedule – something that would not have been possible without that effort. Our students learned about seeds and growth, plant ecology and so much more. And in turn the vegetables the children raise will be featured in snacks they help create as well as produce that they will “sell” in the regular parents’ farmers market.

This year will also feature the creation of a new butterfly/hummingbird garden in the front of the Heineman Center building that should be in full bloom by mid-July.

Rev Up! for Smart Love

Monday, June 11, 2018 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Revolution Brewing, 2323 N. Milwaukee Ave,
Chicago, IL 60647

Raise a pint and raise funds to help Chicagoland children at Revolution Brewing! Bring your friends and savor Revolution's signature brews and their delicious menu.

Rev Up! is a key part of the support that the Smart Love Associate Board provides for our early childhood education, counseling, parenting and therapeutic learning services for nearly 1,000 children and families every year, ensuring happier, healthier futures.

For more info on Rev Up!, go to our website www.smartlovefamily.org and click on the News & Events button at top of page.



SMART LOVE PRESCHOOL'S SUMMER LAWN PARTY

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018
FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
2222 N. KEDZIE BLVD IN LOGAN SQUARE



Join the fun as Smart Love hosts an outdoor summer extravaganza! Bring the whole family and invite your friends and neighbors as we officially introduce ourselves to Logan Square and the wider community. We will have Miko's Italian Ice®, arts & crafts, a gardening activity, bubbles and balloon animals, games and a special performance by Miss Jamie from the Farm!

Mark your calendars!

Little Feet, Big Fun! raises over \$50,000 to help children thrive

Over 150 friends gathered at the Chicago Cultural Center in March for the 2018 Scholarship Gala to show their support for our mission to help children and families have happier and more productive lives. The Gala is the centerpiece of our effort to serve every child and families that comes to Smart Love. All funds raised at the event support our services for families in need. We owe a huge thank-you to event chair Katie Karn, her dedicated team of volunteers—and the incredible generosity of our many donors and friends.

Special Thanks to our 2018 Gala Sponsors



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Spotlight on Community Support

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our generous donors whose gifts to our Campaign for our New Home, as well as our Annual and Program Fund provide essential funding to support our work with children and families from across the community—this generosity allows us to provide the very best programs and services for all those who come to us for help.

Campaign for Our New Home

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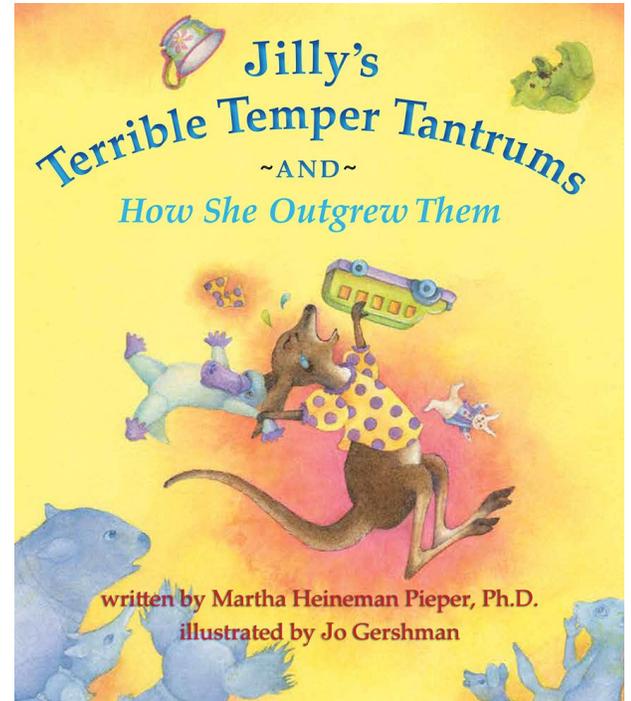
Louise Benzer
Divine Signs, Brett Herrlinger
Gabriel Environmental Services, John Polich



NEWS

Dr. Martha Heineman Pieper's new children's book wins multiple prizes

Dr. Heineman Pieper, who developed the Smart Love® approach and wrote the book, *Smart Love*, with her late husband William J. Pieper, M.D., has published her second children's story book and it is winning numerous awards and prizes. *Jilly's Terrible Temper Tantrums: And How She Outgrew Them* is an endearing story about Jilly, a happy little kangaroo, who has a series of Terrible Temper Tantrums that her parents lovingly help her through. The prestigious **Mom's Choice Gold Award for Picture Books** cites the book for its message that helps families grow emotionally, promotes good will and is inspirational and uplifting. In conferring the **National Parenting Publications Award**, NAPPA Director Elena Epstein said, "Helping our kids manage and better articulate their feelings is a critical part of parenting and this is a delightful book to guide our children through their frustrations. We especially like the message that Jilly's parents will always love her, even in the midst of a temper tantrum." *Jilly's Terrible Temper Tantrums* also recently has been awarded the **Nautilus Silver Award Best Children's Picture Book**, **Feathered Quill Silver Award** for Best Children's Book Illustration, and numerous **First Prize Purple Dragonfly Book Awards**.



Smart Love's New Headquarters dedicated and named in January ceremony

Building Campaign donors and friends of Smart Love came together on January 14, 2018 to celebrate the completion of the renovation and move into our new permanent home at 2222 N. Kedzie Blvd. in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood. The event featured the dedication and naming of the building as the Natalie & Ben Heineman Smart Love Center - in memory of these two champions of children's causes – and parents of Board Member Martha Heineman Pieper and Ben Heineman, Jr. After a program featuring remarks and thanks for the tremendous effort and for the outpouring of support from many people, Ben Heineman, Jr. cut the ribbon officially inaugurating Smart Love's new home.

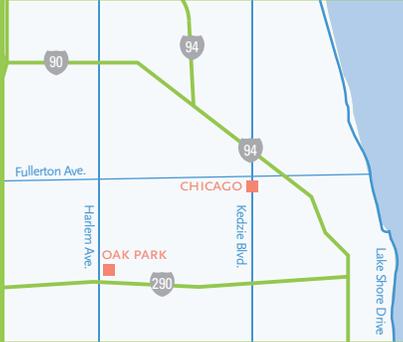




courtesy of Steve Ewert

SMART LOVE® FAMILY SERVICES

2222 N. Kedzie Blvd. | Chicago, Illinois 60647



OUR LOCATIONS

Chicago • Oak Park



TO LEARN MORE VISIT
www.smartlovetfamily.org
www.smartlovetpreschool.org

Smart Love Offers:

COUNSELING SERVICES

- Play Therapy
- Adolescent and Adult Psychotherapy
- Parent Guidance and Counseling
- Couples and Family Counseling
- Child and Adolescent Groups
- Testing Services for children, adolescents and adults
- Autism Treatment Program

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Toddler Explorations (*parent and toddlers 12–36 mos.*)
- 'Playschool' for 2s and 3s
- Preschool & Kindergarten (*half and extended day programs for children 3–6 years*)

LEARNING SERVICES

- Child & Youth Group Support
- Educational Evaluations, Psychological & Neuro-Psych Testing
- Parent Supports
- Therapeutic Tutoring

PARENTING

- Parent Guidance
- Parent Education Seminars
- Publications for Parents and Families

Smart Love Preschool Summer Camp!

Smart Love Preschool's summer camp program embodies the joys of summer. Children ages 2 to 6 experience our play-based curriculum both indoors and outside. Among the adventures they will have are *Space Explorers*, *Under the Sea*, *Safari Adventures*, *Chicago Sightseers*, *Budding Architects*, *Fantastic Farmers*, *Marvelous Maestros* and more! Running through the entire summer is our gardening program—hands on activities with our gardener-in-residence. We offer flexible scheduling with a two-week minimum registration. Camp runs from June 11 to August 3, 2018.

Contact us today to sign-up at 773.665.8052, ext. 1 or email Preschool Director Kelly Perez at kelly.perez@smartlovetfamily.org



The Smart Love Approach was developed by Martha Heineman Pieper, Ph.D., and William J. Pieper, M.D., and is described in their book *Smart Love*. The Natalie G. Heineman Smart Love Preschool offers classes for three to six year olds, and parent and child programs for children six weeks to 36 months. Smart Love Family Services provides counseling for children and families based on the Piepers' therapeutic approach, Inner Humanism®. Parenting programs include private parent coaching, educational seminars (co-sponsored by the Intrapsychic Humanism Society), parent training and support programs, and publications. © 2018 Smart Love Family Services is an Illinois-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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