



## KEYNOTE PRESENTER

Lou Cozolino, PhD, is a prolific author and Professor of Psychology at Pepperdine University. He holds degrees in philosophy from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, theology from Harvard University, and a PhD in clinical psychology from UCLA. In his book, "The Neuroscience of Human Relationships: Attachment and the developing social brain," he states, "we humans are...highly dependent newborns whose brains are shaped through the years of interactions with our caretakers and the environment."

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

**Elizabeth Blue Currier**, a long-time RIE® enthusiast, is a work at home (illustrator) mom to a 2 year old. Elizabeth and her mother, RIE® Associate Alexandra Curtis Boyer, have collaborated on a previous RIE® Conference workshop and on a booklet about establishing respectful and healthy sleep habits.

**Elsa Chahin** is one of only two Pikler® certified and accredited trainers of the Pikler Pedagogy in North America and serves as President of Pikler/Loczy Fund USA. She is a RIE® Associate, PITC Trainer, and UCLA Certified Lactation Educator. She has authored several articles and has been a presenter at over 60 national and international conferences and seminars on the topic of caring for babies with respect. Elsa was a professional ballerina and has been teaching dance and mindfulness to adults and children for over 25 years. Above all, she is a joyous mom.

**Valorie Cole** is a RIE® Associate from Santa Barbara. Retired after forty years in the early childhood arena and a student of the Educaring® Approach since 1989, Valorie now does consulting work and is a RIE® Practicum™ Mentor.

**Melissa Coyné** has been an educator for twenty-four years, has an MA in Child Development, is PITC certified and is a RIE® Associate. She is an advocate for a child's right to a childhood as free from outside influences and pressures as possible and a parent's right to parent free of guilt. Melissa is passionate about inspiring adults and children to be critical thinkers and resides in the Pasadena area where she is raising two daughters.

**Alexandra Curtis Boyer**, RIE® Associate, works as a parent educator and advocates for Tampa Bay area families in need, specializing in breastfeeding. She has presented nationally and internationally on a variety of "birth to two" topics. Author of *Simple Toys Make Active Babies*, Alexandra earned her Associate Degree in ECE and Bachelor's Degree in General studies with a Public Health focus at the University of South Florida.

**Polly Elam**, MA ECE, RIE® Associate and Early Childhood Consultant. Regional Child Development Program Administrator; Community College Instructor. PITC Graduate and Partners for Quality Instructor; On-going studies at Pikler Institute, Budapest, Hungary. Currently on contract with First5 Monterey County as a TA Consultant/Coach. Served on the California Association for the Education of Young Children State Board of Directors, 1988–1997.

**Anita Cooper Ebright**, RIE® Associate, is a Faculty Member and Instructor for the Early Childhood Education Program at Lethbridge College in Lethbridge, Alberta Canada. As a member of the RIE® Alliance, having offered Parent-Infant Guidance™ Classes weekly at Lethbridge College since 1995, Anita has also instructed the RIE® Foundations™ Course periodically since that time. She feels fortunate to have been instructed in RIE® curriculum by Magda Gerber.

**Janet Gonzalez-Mena**, RIE® Associate, interned with Magda Gerber at the Demonstration Infant Program (DIP) in Palo Alto, California in 1976. Janet is the author of many books in the ECE field, having co-authored *Infants, Toddlers and Caregivers*, going into its ninth edition. On the faculty of WestEd PITC Training of Trainers Institute, Janet conducts seminars and workshops in the U.S. and internationally and is on the Board of Directors of Pikler/Loczy Fund USA.

**Franny Higgins** is an ECE graduate with a specialization in Infant and Toddler Development who is currently working on her RIE® Practicum™. The owner of Franny Annie's, a home-based child care program in Santa Barbara, Franny's dedication to the Educaring® Approach for the past 15 years is a daily practice, and her program is visited regularly by RIE® students as an exemplary center.



## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS - CONTINUED

**Karla Lee Kuester** has been a RIE® Associate since 1989. She has a degree in ECE/Developmental Psychology, and Art. Karla has worked as a Certified Montessori pre-school teacher, I/T Specialist, Early Interventionist since 1977. She has been E.I. Field Supervisor/Behavior Interventionist for Step By Step EDU-Play in Santa Monica, and CDS at UCLA for many years. She teaches core I/T coursework yearly at UC Irvine and UCLA Graduate School IMPACT Program since 2012. Karla has been an author, CD/ECE consultant, Private Tutor from 1988 to present.

**Jill Getto Lee** is a RIE® Associate who specializes in multiples. She is a RIE® Parent-Infant Guidance™ class facilitator, teaches the RIE® Before Baby™ course, and provides classes at the Los Angeles RIE® Center, as well as in her own private program in Sherman Oaks. Jill works as a consultant for the County of Los Angeles, providing group training sessions for Effective Teacher-Child Interactions.

**Gail Nadal M.A.**, RIE® Associate, currently on the RIE® Board of Directors, has worked over 25 years with young children. She is Director of ECE for Yolo County Office of Education serving children of poverty through the county's Head Start/Early HS programs and State preschool, all incorporating the Educaring® Approach. Gail coordinates the Local Planning Council, instructs part-time for the Center for Excellence in Child Development/UC Davis Extension, and mentors Family Child Care Providers serving children 0-3 years.

**Kimberly Ryan** is a Lead Teacher at the Child Educational Center where she has worked with infants and toddlers for over 20 years. Her professional emphases are parent-teacher relationships and providing respectful, individualized care for children and their families. Kimberly utilizes her many years of experience to refine practices in early care by training teachers, educating parents and providing mentorship in the classroom. She lives in Altadena and is the proud mother of two daughters.

**Patricia Ryan**, RIE® Associate, has worked in the field of Infant, Toddler Development and Care for over 20 years. The principal in Patricia Ryan Consulting, Patty consults privately, leads workshops, seminars, in-service trainings and a variety of courses in infant, toddler development and care nationally and internationally. Patty is a RIE® Foundations instructor, a RIE® Parent-Infant Guidance™ facilitator, and is currently completing her Masters Degree in Human Development at Pacific Oaks College.

**Sharon Smith**, RIE® Associate, is inspired by the work of Magda Gerber. She consults with parents, teachers and teaching teams as a mentor, and facilitates workshops in New Zealand and Australia. Sharon is a founding trustee and Chair of New Zealand Infant and Toddler Consortium, a charitable trust set up to empower the carers of very young children around an Educaring® Approach.

**Kira Solomatova** is a RIE® Associate and RIE® Parent-Infant Guidance™ Class Facilitator. She also works with parents whose children have been diagnosed with autism. Kira coaches and supports parents in writing Social Stories to help their children process events.

**Paty Tejeda** is Center Director of King City Migrant Child Development Center, First 5 Monterey County Leadership Program. She has 25 years of experience with King City Migrant Child Care Center and is recognized as one of the key leaders in the First5 MC Initiative to improve the quality of childcare in Monterey County. She is a popular speaker at conferences, including the Central Coast Infant and Toddler Network Conference, San Luis Obispo, CAEYC Annual Conference, Sacramento, and a regular presenter at the First5 MC Annual Conferences, Monterey and Salinas area.