

Director's Notes

An Interview with Louise Haimowitz, Parenting Place's new Family Advocate

Gail: Tell me about your experience working with families.

Louise: My experience includes working with women with multiple addictions, as a child birth educator and, most recently, thirteen years with Boulder County's Community Infant Program (CIP). I have learned a lot about building healthy families and strong parent/child attachments and how families cope with difficult situations.

G: What attracted you to work for Parenting Place?

L.: I have worked with individuals and with families but at Parenting Place I also have the ability to work with and create a healthy community of parents. I love the idea of helping families help each other by supporting, mentoring or giving ideas to each other. Within this community I feel that I can help families recognize their strengths, validate their struggles and polish their skills as parents. The opportunity to work with a wide variety of families is also exciting.

G: What do you think about your first few weeks at Parenting Place?

L: I have been delighted! I have loved meeting new families and feel proud to be a part of an organization where families feel invested enough to both receive and to give back. There are many different approaches to parenting and I believe that parents have the ability to decide what works best for their family. Parenting Place supports this approach. We focus on parents' strengths and support and guide them as they learn new skills.

G: What new ideas or programs do you hope to bring to Parenting Place?

L: It is important to me to find out what families want and what has been helpful to them in the past. I want to be able to offer a spectrum of programs that range from supportive to educational. I also want to offer time to meet with families individually as some interact more easily and effectively when meeting one on one. I feel that I bring a good knowledge of the community resources that I can share with families and other staff members.

G: Is there anything you would like to add?

L: I have three daughters- 24, 22 and 18. I know how humbling it is to be a parent. Just as we shouldn't expect our children to be perfect we shouldn't expect that we will be a perfect parent. My message to parents is to do the best they can and to approach parenting with an openness to learning, as well as with a sense of humor.