

Dear Michael Olaf Customers,

Each child comes into the world with a unique set of abilities, precious gifts, and a beautiful personality ready to unfold. It is through exploration, appropriate challenges, intelligent choices, and concentration on meaningful activities in the family life that the child develops fully and happily.

The parent is the first teacher and the most important element in the child's life. Our task is to create loving, safe, and healthful environments which support the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual development of each child.

The way for us to build a healthy, happy and successful society is to meet the needs of the very young child in the most formative stages of development.

The Joyful Child offers many practical suggestions for the adult living and working with the very youngest child. Is also a source of beautiful and appropriate toys and other educational materials for youngest children.

Michael Olaf catalogue text is updated every year to reflect the comments and questions we receive. Please don't skip this writing; it is the most important thing we have to offer you!

We wish you success in providing a joyful life together, at home and in your community.

Blessings,



Susan & Jim Stephenson

and everyone at

The Michael Olaf Montessori Company

THE PARENT IS THE CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER

Here is a picture of Susan's mother and first teacher, artist and musician Kathryn Shroyer Mayclin. She sang and played music to Susan and her siblings all during her pregnancies and their early lives.



BABY SHOWER & BIRTHDAY GIFT REGISTRY

We have a gift registry available. Give us the name and address of the celebrating child (or adult), the date of event, and the wish list of items. Then order copies of one or both of our catalogues for the party guests, or alert participants of the Michael Olaf website (www.michaelolaf.net). We keep track of what has been ordered so there will be no duplicate gifts.



COVER ART

Hannukah. This is Zahra, Susan and Jim's grandchild, with their other grandfather, John. From an oil painting by Susan. Limited Edition Fine Art print available. (www.susanart.net)

SUGGESTED AGES

0-3 HOME: With safety the first consideration, all of the materials in *The Joyful Child* are suitable for the home.

0-3 CLASS: With the teacher's training as a guide, many of the materials in *The Joyful Child* (Age 0-3) and *Child of the World* (the Michael Olaf publication for ages 3-12+) are suitable for the 0-3 class.

3-6 HOME & CLASS: Many of the materials introduced at the 0-3 age, within the pages of *The Joyful Child*, are used by children throughout the 3-6 years and beyond.

THE JOYFUL CHILD

Available retail or wholesale

The Joyful Child (Birth to Three) and *Child of the World* (3-6 Years) are considered by many to be the most valuable Montessori 0-3 overview available today. They are sold in several countries by Montessori book suppliers, schools, organizations, and teacher training centers. They are also available through www.amazon.com.

Many schools provide copies to families on their waiting list and have them available for sale for people interested in learning about Montessori philosophy and practice.

You may order copies directly from us wholesale. The following prices include shipping and handling by air.

Orders within the USA:

1 copy: \$7.00

2 copies: \$12.00

3-9 copies: \$5.00 each

10+ copies: \$3.00 each

Orders from outside the United States:

1 copy: \$18.00

2 copies: \$22.00

Bulk copies are available internationally. Contact us for information.

PERMISSION TO REPRINT

Because our chief aim is education, you have blanket permission to reprint our text for educational purposes, and to link the text of www.michaelolaf.net to any educational or parenting website. We have placed all of the pages of *The Joyful Child* free on the internet, as printable PDF files.

THANK YOU

Thank you for ordering from us, and for sharing Michael Olaf with your family, friends, and colleagues. It is because of you that we are able to provide Montessori information to help children all over the world. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your part in this important work.

PARENTS' CHOICE SEAL

OF APPROVAL

For eight consecutive years, Michael Olaf received the Parents' Choice Seal of Approval by the Parents' Choice Foundation for which we are very pleased.

We print our publications in black and white to emphasize philosophy over products, and on recycled paper to protect the environment.

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Editors & Advisors: Jim Stephenson, Karin Salzmann, everyone at Michael Olaf, Ursula Melvin, and many parents and Montessorians.

QUOTING THE JOYFUL CHILD

For educational purposes, please feel free to quote anything from The Joyful Child, or web pages using this credit:
 "Permission to reprint portions of *The Joyful Child*, Michael Olaf's Essential Montessori for Birth to Three has been granted by the Michael Olaf Company, www.michaelolaf.net"

PARENT EDUCATION—FALL FUNDRAISER

There is no better way to provide 0-3 information to help parents than to provide them with the Michael Olaf catalogues. These publications explain a time-honored system of parenting.
 As an added benefit of buying Michael Olaf catalogues, organizations and parent groups who order copies in bulk (wholesale cost plus shipping and handling) qualify for our no-work fall fundraiser. Parents place orders directly in the fall, we ship directly to them, and after the holidays 10% of the total order amount is returned to the organization in credit for Michael Olaf materials.

THE AUTHOR OF THE JOYFUL CHILD

The following is a list of Susan's academic work on which—combined with forty years of parenting, thirty-five years of teaching, and ten years of homeschooling—her writing is based:

Degrees: BA, Philosophy; MA, Education, Association Montessori International diplomas for three levels, (three year long post graduate level courses):

- * Birth to three (Denver, Colorado, and Rome, Italy)
- * Age 2-7 (London, England)
- * Age 6-12+ (Washington, DC)

Her teachers and lecturers included Mario Montessori, Mario Montessori, Jr., Renilde Montessori, and several others trained by Dr. Maria Montessori, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, and Dr. Howard Gardner at Harvard University.

Experience: Susan has taught students from age two through college, has worked as a counselor for juvenile delinquents and as school administrator. She is a course assistant for the AMI 3-6 course in Thailand, and has written and lectured on education for AMI, NAMTA, AMS, and independent organizations and publications in New Zealand, Japan, Peru, the Virgin Islands, India, Hong Kong, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, The Netherlands, Albania, and the USA. Susan is a wife, mother, grandmother, artist, teacher, and webmaster.

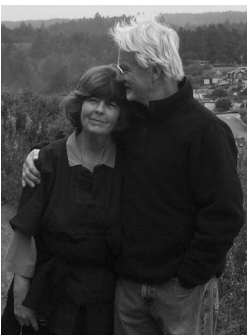


PHOTO: Susan and Jim Stephenson at home in Trinidad, California.

For up-to-date information on Michael Olaf Children's projects see:

www.michaelolaf.net/childrensprojects.html

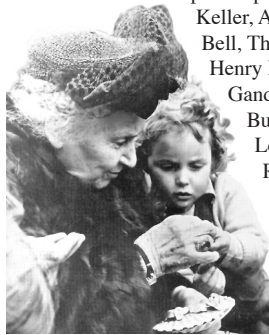
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MARIA MONTESSORI, MD

Well-known supporters of Montessori philosophy include: Helen Keller, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Mahatma Gandhi, Sigmund Freud, Buckminster Fuller, Leo Tolstoy, Bertrand Russell, Jean Piaget, Erik Erikson, John Holt, Anne Frank (Montessori student), the Dalai Lama, and others.



WHO IS MICHAEL OLAF?

Above you see three happy and productive ex-Montessori students, of 3-6, 6-12, and Montessori homeschooling experience.

In 1982 Michael Olaf Stephenson was born. For his benefit his teenager sisters Narda and Ursula began a Montessori project: researching the process of starting a business. They soon opened a tiny shop that provided Montessori-type toys and books for children and named it after their brother.

As of 2008 Narda is a mother, and a medical volunteer working part-time in Guatemala. Michael Olaf is a graduate of Brown U. and U. of Oregon School of law, working as an attorney in Portland, and composing music. Ursula is a river rafting guide and Montessori 0-3 teacher. Above is a picture of them at Ursula's wedding in 2006: Ursula, Michael Olaf, Narda.

AVAILABILITY & PRICES

Many of our unique items are limited in their availability. If you see something you absolutely must have, please order it as soon as you can. The prices of catalogue items are set by the publisher or manufacturer and are beyond our control and subject to change without notice.

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