Family Spotlight: Painting, Playgrounds & Play

My name is Leslie Aronson. My husband, Michael, and I are the parents of Ruby (AM Red Room, turning 3 in December) and Maya (born this past June). We also have a black lab, Mesi, and a cat, Mabel. Michael, a Squirrel Hill native, is a manager at GlaxoSmithKline, founder of several health and safety-related businesses, and a licensed paramedic (not currently practicing). I am a clinical social worker and have a part-time private psychotherapy practice, in addition to being a stay-at-home mom. I’m originally from Syracuse, New York and have been living in Pittsburgh since 2006.

Many people visiting our home have been offered a check up by “Doctor” Ruby, toy doctor kit in tow. In addition to her passion for helping people feel good, Ruby has a love of painting, playgrounds, and of course, playing with her baby sister. Maya is a very social and smiley baby who is currently into practicing new vocal sounds.

As a family, we enjoy going for walks, visiting the zoo, hosting brunches, and summer trips to Newport, Rhode Island, where we spend time at the beach and the annual folk music festival.

The Children’s School is a great fit for our family. Our connection with the school dates back to 1979, when Michael was a preschool “friend” in Ms. Ehnes’ class. That’s him right in front of the teacher! He still remembers some of the children in his class, and, according to his mother, he liked the playground the best.

In addition to Michael’s fond history, the school’s role in psychology academia appeals to me. As a former undergraduate major in Human Development, I remember observing a similar laboratory preschool for a class called The Role and Meaning of Play. I was (and remain) fascinated by what children’s play can teach us about individual children as well as about human psychology in general. I am so happy for Ruby (and eventually, Maya) to be a part of a school that is attentive to and knowledgeable about healthy psychological development.

The start of school this year has been Ruby’s first experience in a structured environment away from her parents. It has been such a pleasure for Michael and me to learn even more about our daughter than we already knew, against the new backdrop of an enriching school setting. I love watching her from my car at dismissal time as she returns inside from the playground, holding a friend’s hand, happily singing and swaying, pigtails bobbing.