

A 45 Year Partnership...Maddy Malis & FELS traveling the road together



At age 12, Maddy was already operating her own day camp from her Northeast Philadelphia home for young kids in her neighborhood. Each morning, camp began with a pledge of allegiance, singing the national anthem followed by snacks, arts and crafts and a ball game in her yard all for the bargain price of 30 cents per child.



1970-1980

As an intern at Moss Rehab in 1970, she helped set up its first outpatient child care program for children with special needs, ranging in age from 10 months to 7 years.

When she walked into Paley Day Care Center (now Paley Early Learning Center) for her child care internship it was "Love at first sight."



Congratulations Mommy Maddy! Infant son Eric is enrolled in a Family Day Care home. Maddy remarked, I gained a child care parent's perspective that remains with me and is valuable to this day.

FDCS expanded into Elkins Park, Bala Cynwyd and Center City.

Another promotion resulted in Maddy becoming the FDCS Director of Programs & Services.

FDCS was the first Federation of Jewish Agencies' constituent agency to have a presence in Delaware County. The Center was located in a synagogue and named Kehillah Early Learning Center.

Maddy was promoted to the position of Director of Northeast Family Day Care (FDC).

1980-1990



Preschool teacher Miss Maddy was known for being the "go to" person for taking out splinters.

Maddy and Norman S. Finkel (her mentor) administered the Northeast Interfaith Consortium. FELS Family Day Care program grew from 100 to 230 children.



First Love Our Kids Gala, honoring Mary Bert Gutman, FELS first Board President was held.

As FDCS grew, Maddy was named the Assistant Executive Director with oversight of 750 children and eight child care centers.

1990-2000

During Maddy's 45 years at FELS, there have been many expansion projects that were made possible by the expertise, and support of the Board of Directors, an unusually dedicated and skilled group. With their ingenuity and resiliency, FELS, for the first time, opened a center in Bucks County.

The first synagogue partnership with Congregation Beth El - Ner Tamid, Delaware County was formed.

Congregation Kol Ami, Montgomery County became FELS second synagogue partnership.

FELS partnered with the School District of Philadelphia to provide headstart and Pre-K Counts programs to eligible children at the Lassin and Paley Early Learning Centers.

Maddy appointed to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Children's Behavioral Health.

Federation Day Care Services changes its name to Federation Early Learning Services (FELS).

A Jewish Education Specialist was hired to integrate Jewish programming into classrooms on a daily basis.



First FELS program, Gutman Early Learning Center, becomes accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The Commonwealth's largest subsidized child care contract awarded by the Department of Human Services to FELS to administer what is now known as Child Care Information Services Northeast (CCIS NE).

2000-2010

During this time, FELS operated 11 center based and five After School programs in Northeast Philadelphia.



A Child Development Specialist was hired to better integrate the increased number of children with special needs in classrooms. When this service started, the Social Work Department closed.

As a respected provider of School Age programs, FELS participated in the federal No Child Left Behind Initiative.

2010-2017

Opened two synagogue based programs, Ohev Shalom Early Learning Center (Bucks County) and Lokoff Abramson Early Learning Center (Montgomery County).

Maddy testified at the state Democratic House Committee Hearing on to help educate legislators about the importance of Pre-K funding.

In collaboration with Politz Hebrew Academy, FELS began a program to serve three and four year olds in the Elkins Park and Northeast Philadelphia Orthodox communities. This program expanded and currently serves toddlers and Pre-K children as well.



FELS' Centers began earning Keystone Stars Quality Initiative Star 4 top ratings awarded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Programs receive this designation when they meet rigorous standards in a variety of areas.

Congregation Rodeph Shalom and FELS (third synagogue partnership) open the only full day Jewish early education program in Center City.



FELS celebrates 100 years.

Congratulations FELS for completing 25 years of successful administration of CCIS NE which grew from a budget of \$3.2million to over \$72 million and, this past year served over 21,000 children.

Maddy continues to serve on city, regional and state boards including Pennsylvania Child Care Association, the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children, Southeastern Pennsylvania Child Care Coalition and the Regional Leadership Council of the Southeast PA Regional Key. She is the 2001 recipient of the Award of Excellence for outstanding accomplishments in the field of child care administration for Pennsylvania's children and families and is a graduate of the Wexner Tri-State Jewish Leadership program.

