

Lesley Steinweg and Lisa Archinal worked together to publish their first children's book, *I Love You Like...*



Sharing the Love

Two Katy Moms Collaborate on a Heartwarming Book about Unconditional Love for their Children

Written by Noreen Stavinoha and Photos by Marisa Hugonnett

Lisa Archinal didn't need the added task of writing a book. She's already busy enough with public speaking engagements, seminars and Bible classes. Three children, Mary Kate, 10, Jack, 9, and Ellie, 7, add still another dimension to the busy life of this dynamic Katy native. However, in a hazy, half-awake state one early morning she found herself asking the question: "How can I tell my children what love looks like?"

"I started getting these word pictures in my head, and they were rhymes," says Lisa. In the short span of half an hour she had typed seventy of those rhyming word pictures, and asked her husband, Chris, what he thought. He told her she should publish them for their kids, if for no other reason. So began her new venture.

Perfect Timing

Words without pictures wouldn't make a very readable book for children, and Archinal is not an artist. Her friend Lesley Steinweg is a painter specializing in children's rooms, so she showed the poems to Steinweg, and asked her if she'd be interested in illustrating them. "I've always wanted to illustrate a children's book," says Steinweg with a grin, "but the projects that had arisen had never come along at the right time." But the timing was perfect for Lisa's project. They decided that self publishing was the most practical route to take for the book, so Archinal researched the possibilities and settled on a printer in Bryan, Texas, who was willing to help a novice through the process.

Meanwhile, Steinweg was making artistic decisions. Watercolor was the medium she chose, and then she found a computer program for combining the words and pictures on a page, and acquired a copy. Together they decided which of the poems to include in the book, how to illustrate them, and which picture to put on the cover, and *I Love You Like...* became a reality. They put it all together and sent it off to the printer with an order to have five hundred run off.

A Successful Venture

Their own children were the first critics, and they knew they had struck the right chord when the kids asked to take the books to school to show their teachers and friends. "I hope it will be a blessing to families, and it will help parents, grandparents, aunts, and babysitters to bond with the children they care for and about," says Archinal. Archinal has ideas for a couple more books in mind, and Steinweg says she's definitely onboard with illustrating them, so we can look for a sequel to *I Love You Like...* from these two ladies in the future. The book can be purchased at lisaarchinal.com. **KM**

NOREEN STAVINOHA is a Katy resident who enjoys writing about interesting people.



Lisa and Chris Archinal with their kids Jack, Ellie, and Mary Cate



Lesley and Tom Steinweg with their children Emery, Claire, and Hannah

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