



Waldorf Early Childhood Educator Training

THE OLDER CHILD IN THE KINDERGARTEN

Instructor: Ruth Ker

COURSE OUTLINE

Description of Course Content: Children pass through many developmental stages in early childhood and each stage has its own challenges. Somewhere between 5 ½ and 7 the child goes through a time of metamorphosis. This course will look at the changes the child experiences and how the teacher can meet these changes with grace and support. We, as teachers, find that we need to shift our approach somewhat as children grow older in the EC setting. By looking at chronological ages, developmental stages, and the new-found abilities and behaviours of the older children in the kindergarten, we will examine fresh approaches in the classroom that meet the needs of these children. This course will also examine a variety of first grade readiness games, observations and questions that will aid the teacher when the time comes to determine whether the child is ready for first grade.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student will have reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- realize the significance of the six-year change and what its manifestations are for the older child in the EC setting
- work with some tools which will help the teacher to compassionately respond to these children
- recognize some of the signs of readiness and be able to make readiness decisions based on this.

Required text: none

Recommended texts:

The Extra Lesson by Audrey McAllen

Articles on “Working with the Older Child in the Kindergarten” and related subjects, are to be found in *Gateways*, a newsletter of the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN). In previous years published under the title *Waldorf Kindergarten Newsletter*. Back issues are available from WECAN.

You're Not the Boss of Me by Ruth Ker

From Kindergarten into the Grades by Ruth Ker

Some authors to look for are:

Joan Almon, Nancy Blanning, Louise de Forest, Nancy Foster, Barbara Klocek, Karl-Reinhard Kummer and Daena Ross.

Method of Instruction: lecture, slides, demonstration and classroom activities

Method of Student Evaluation and Completion Requirements: attendance, quality of classroom participation in discussions and activities

3 classes of one and a half hours (4.5 hours)

Ruth Ker and Debbie Laurin
Program Directors
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