



## **Waldorf Early Childhood Educator Training**

### **WORKING WITH MIXED AGES**

**Instructor: Debbie Laurin, Ph.D**

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Description of Course Content:** This course concentrates on investigating the benefits of a mixed age early childhood grouping. Mixed-age preschools and kindergartens enable the older and younger children to play and work together in a mutually beneficial way.

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

- discern the advantages of the relational needs within mixed-age groups
- have a greater understanding of the ages and stages of the development of the child from birth to seven and how it is possible to offer programming that can embrace this in a “family grouping”
- have tools and practices which enable the teachers to foster right activity in their gesture toward the young child
- understand the value of imitation and the importance of the teacher as a role model

**Required text:** None

All materials for in-class activities are supplied

**Recommended texts:**

*Creating a Home for Body, Soul, and Spirit, a New Approach to Childcare* by Bernadette Raichle

Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America, Spring Valley, NY

Articles pertinent to the discussions will be provided in handout materials.

**Method of Instruction:**

This lecture will include presentation and discussion. There will also be in-class experiential activities in a format that allows students to explore the topic material. Please dress comfortably as the presentations will involve some movement.

**Method of Student Evaluation:** attendance and participation in class

**1 class of 1.5 hours each (1.5 hours)**

Ruth Ker and Debbie Laurin  
Program Directors  
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