

IASWECE Report

Louise deForest, IASWECE Representative for North America

2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of Waldorf Early Childhood Education in the world. It will also be the 21st anniversary of the founding of IASWECE, so much of the recent Council meeting in Gödöllő, Hungary, was spent discussing and planning for this big anniversary year.

The World Early Childhood Conference will be held in Dornach, Switzerland, from April 8th to 12th, 2026. A small conference planning group has been established, comprising IASWECE Council members, members of the Pedagogical Section, and several others. The title of the conference is *"Kindness, Strength, and Love – Planting the Seeds for a Healthy Unfolding."* It promises to be the most international conference ever, featuring keynote speakers from around the world, 34 workshops held in several different languages, and 13 puppet shows from 13 different countries. The foundation of the conference and all the presentations is the seven conditions for esoteric development, as found in Rudolf Steiner's book, *How to Know Higher Worlds*, Chapter 5. The pioneers and history of Waldorf early childhood education will be honored, and together we will experience the astonishing and delightful diversity of our Waldorf early childhood movement today.

In preparation for the 21st anniversary of IASWECE, the Council is reviewing all its documents and statements to determine if they remain relevant to the world we live in and to our mission. Additionally, the Council is creating new research and position papers to support our members. The Council will review the new draft documents in our next meeting in October 2025, in Mumbai, India, and they will be available on the [IASWECE website](#) shortly thereafter.

On another note, IASWECE welcomed two new country members: Croatia and Argentina, bringing the total number of country members to 39.

We will be using the following verse by Rudolf Steiner throughout the conference, one that is as important today as when it was first written. It is called the Peace Dance.

Peace Dance (Conference Verse)

The wishes of the soul are sprouting,
The deeds of the will are growing,
The fruits of life are ripening.
I feel my destiny,
My destiny finds me.
I feel my star,
My star finds me.
I feel my goals in life,
My goals in life are finding me.
My soul and the great world are one:
Life grows brighter around me,
Life grows heavier for me,
Life grows richer within me.

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Strive for peace,
Live in peace,
Love peace.
Rudolf Steiner