

Birth to Three Spring E-Newsletter

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There has been a great deal of activity in Birth to Three. We look forward to continuing to create offerings that support and connect those working with the very youngest children.

Birth to Three Conferences

North American Birth to Three Conference

There is a good deal of activity in the realm of Birth to Three conferences for 2024-2025. Sophia's Hearth and WECAN will cosponsor a regional conference in the fall of 2024. We are grateful that the Birth to Three conferences hosted there these last few years will continue. Meanwhile, the Birth to Three Working Group is excited to be meeting with Debbie Laurin and Ruth Ker, exploring the possibility of hosting a Birth to Three conference in collaboration with West Coast Institute sometime in the spring of 2025. We are considering Vancouver, BC, and Seattle, WA as potential sites. We recognize the significant number of colleagues in the West who work with very young children and would like an opportunity to bring these caregivers together.

CARE 1 - North American Conference, Summer 2025 and Dornach Conference

Meetings are continuing, shaping a North American CARE 1 conference for August 2025. The conference will take place in Spring Valley, NY. The theme of the conference is thresholds. We are very excited to be collaborating with the Medical Section under the guidance of Dr. Adam Blanning to bridge the work of pedagogues and healthcare professionals in support of families and young children.

In May 2024, a third European CARE 1 Conference is taking place in Dornach, Switzerland. This event is now also being offered as an online event with recordings of the lectures from the in-person conference and culminating with a live conversation to gather insights with Dr. Adam Blanning and Dr. Karin Michael. ([link to register for the online event](#))

Professional Development/Parent-Caregiver Evenings

We hosted five parent evenings in the 2023-2024 school year. We hope that you and your parent/family community found these evenings inspiring and informative. Looking ahead to next year's series, potential topics include DEI in our work with children, digital media, supporting common early childhood illnesses, rhythm and incarnation, neurodiversity & emergency pedagogy. We would love to hear any ideas you have for topics or speakers. Please feel very welcome to share your thoughts with us.

Birth to Three in Mexico

Our colleague, Anjum Mir, will present a weekend workshop in Puebla, MX, this month. We are excited to deepen our collaboration with colleagues who work with Mexico's youngest children and look forward to future collaborations.

Teacher Training/Childcare

The Birth to Three Trainers and the Birth to Three working group are in an ongoing conversation to better the training needs of those working in childcare centers in Canada and the US. Training needs in childcare centers are different from those in schools. Teacher Ed and the training institutes are working to create proposals to meet the training guidelines and childcare needs. Debbie Laurin and Ruth Ker at West Coast Institute, Katherine Scharff at Sophia's Hearth, and Karen Weyler at Star Seedlings/Rudolf Steiner Center Toronto are actively doing this work.

Looking Ahead

The Birth to Three working group will focus on Parent/Child programs in the coming year. We are eager to find ways to connect with colleagues and administrators to support this very important work.

We are planning a gathering in the fall of 2024 for colleagues on 'circle time for the youngest children. This Zoom event will be for those working with young children and will explore what nourishes, delights, and supports children under three.