

Birth to Three

Heather Church, Magdalena Toran, Birth to Three Coordinators

Happy Fall to everyone, we hope that you are beginning to settle into the new year and that soon we will see you at one or more of our upcoming events.

Birth to Three Conference - The Birth to Three conference will take place in person this fall. The topic is [The Evolution of Play](#), with Else Chahin from Pikler USA and Debbie Laurin as presenters. Dates are October 14, 15, 16, 2022 at Sophia's Hearth, Keene, New Hampshire. It is our intention that the conference be very experiential. We are excited for this conference and look forward to offering a hands-on gathering with many opportunities for participants to learn experientially.

Birth to Three Focus Groups - In the spring we began gathering with colleagues according to their area of focus, including childcare providers, parent child teachers and birth to three trainers. This fall we will begin to meet with homecare providers as well. These online meetings provide an opportunity for those who work in specific areas of birth to three to share their ideas and questions and learn more about WECAN birth to three programs. Meetings are open to all and are hosted by Heather Church and Magdalena Toran, WECAN Birth to Three Coordinators.

Home Programs: October 27th, 7:00-8:00 EST - zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89314862570?pwd=MkFxcUJXS0dva0RsaWtTU1JMZmlwQT09>

Child Care Providers: November 9th, 7:00-8:00 EST - zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87988087694?pwd=Q2ptVEN2L2o2Rjd2enJLWG83OXhWUT09>

Parent-Child Facilitators: December 12th 7:00 - 8:30 EST - zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81865279238?pwd=SkIQUkF4QXRUVlnZC9TckVnb0pUdz09>

The meeting dates and times will also be posted on the WECAN Community Hub and the WECAN website calendar.

Online Parent Evening with Dr. Adam Blanning November 16th at 8:30 pm EST

The focus will be supporting parents. This event is open to caregivers of all kinds - parents, guardians, childcare providers, teachers etc. We look forward to sharing more details and registration information in the coming weeks.

June 2022 Dignity of the Young Child Conference in Dornach - Leslie Wetzonis-Woolverton, I.D.E.A. Coordinator attended the Dignity of the Child conference in Dornach, Switzerland on behalf of WECAN. The following is a note from Leslie; we are so very grateful that she attended the conference on behalf of WECAN.

"This past summer, the International Early Childhood Conference was held, organized by both the Pedagogical and Medical Sections of the Goetheanum. I was delighted to attend this much awaited event, present a workshop for I.D.E.A and to volunteer assistance with colleagues of IASWECE. The full title of this conference, "The Dignity of the Young Child - I feel good in your eyes", presented key lecturers and workshops with leading doctors and EC educators on "How do trust, warmth and autonomy arise in the interaction between adult and child?" The conference and collaboration were inspiring, informative, and addressed what is needed in support for children and families today.

"The Many Faces of Fear — A Global Challenge" concluded the first night and was led by a collaborative, supportive panel. The leading theme throughout the ongoing days highlighted what we all can do in collaboration to support our work. The participants included Stefanie Allon, Ignacia Gonzalez Rena, Julia Grebner, Stefan Krauch, Angelica Masser, Christoph Meinecke, and Georg Soldner, and the panel was chaired by Stefan Schmidt-Troschke. The clear focus for the remaining conference days centered on pre-birth through the first seven years of childhood. Discussions on how to meet and build connections through families also was presented. On Saturday, Katherine Scharff of Sophia's Hearth and Dr. Michaela Gloeckler offered the final remarks closing the conference."

Birth to Three Publications - [Birth to Three in Education and Care - Rudolf Steiner, Emmi Pikler and the Very Young Child](#) was released in July of this year. This book is a collection of the keynote lectures from the 2019 Birth to Three Conference. The book is a support for those working and living with young children. Lecturers include Susan Weber, Jane Swain, Debbie Laurin and Katherine Scharff.

The next publication we are focusing on is a book by Jane Swain about her work with the development of movement and the very young child.