

OLDER CHILD SURVEY LETTER

Ruth Ker, Teacher Education Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

Have you ever wished to know more about what other colleagues are doing in their early childhood classes and/or what practices other schools are adopting in the field of early childhood education? This is a wondering shared by many.

The WECAN Board also has been hearing about the increasing number of questions around the older child in the kindergarten, specifically the transition between kindergarten and the grades and the variety of ways that schools have been working with this. So, in November 2025 the WECAN Board sent out a survey to our member schools, inquiring about specific practices with the older child in the kindergarten.

The survey results were objectively compiled after 82% of the member schools in North America responded by the March 2026 deadline. After careful, objective compilation, it is hoped that the information in this survey will help you and your school to feel informed about current North American practices and to bring a broader context to your own orientation to these questions.

This survey asked for detailed information, including: cut-off dates; shared understandings with parents, administration, and grade school colleagues; what grade one teachers are noticing about the difference between very young first graders and older first graders; language acquisition and speech development; and information on the pressures experienced by your EC colleagues.

Although the wealth of information in this survey is lengthy, it is artistically portrayed and may also take more than one attempt to penetrate it. [Please take the time to benefit from this important research.](#)

In the meantime, the WECAN Board has recognized the need to do further research on these many questions and has endorsed the creation of a new Older Child Group. This newly formed group will be working with representation from mainstream and anthroposophical research, remedial teachers, the medical section, and both grades and early childhood. This group, with the intention of being non-prescriptive, will be invested in exploring the landscape around the work of the educator and the school with regards to the older child in the kindergarten. We invite you to participate with your interest and questions.

Please send your feedback and questions for the Older Child Group to: Ruth Ker at teachered@waldorfearlychildhood.org.