

GATEWAYS

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Gateways is flourishing with many colleagues responding to the journal's "Call for Submissions." The topic for the next issue is announced in each issue now. We are hearing from many new voices and programs, offering diverse perspectives and describing the diversity of burgeoning and sustaining work in North America.

With the anniversary of the "official" founding of Waldorf early childhood classrooms in 1926 upon us, Gateways has brought forward questions about our practices and picturing of child development. Are our foundational practices and understanding of the growing child still relevant and accurate? The Fall 2025 issue and the upcoming Spring 2026 edition focus on literacy. As mainstream attitudes push to begin academic instruction earlier and earlier, are our Waldorf programs still acting in children's best interests as we focus on oral experience and enrichment through stories, rhymes, rhythmic and pictorial speech, singing, and circle times? Gateways offers information and resources to affirm that an oral invitation to literacy is essential and confirmed by mainstream research as well as professional experience.

A huge question facing all educational streams, not only Waldorf, is how to understand and serve the neuro-expansiveness and sensory differences of children filling our classes at this time. This is a topic the journal will be working with in one way or another continuously in future issues.

Many thanks are offered to colleagues who have accepted the invitation to share their study, experience, and activities with the wider early childhood community through Gateways. There is so much good, creative work being done with children and families. It is a privilege for the pages of Gateways to share it.