

Kindness-Strength-Love Seeds for a Healthy Unfolding

100 Years Celebration of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education
8-12 April 2026 at the Goetheanum

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On a warm spring day in a country where I am currently a guest, I sit on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea; the water is cold, the sun is warm and a pleasant, caressing breeze carries the sounds of children playing. My heart expands as I watch with wonder and curiosity two children playing among the high rocks that the waves are lapping. A girl and a boy. I would bet they are five years old, with nets and buckets in their hands, determined to scoop up the treasures that the sea reveals to them.

I understand only a few words in their language, but it is enough for me to look at them and understand them without words. The sharp, smooth rocks challenge their bare feet, but with great determination they move from rock to rock, encouraging each other, waiting for each other, and reaching out to help. Each wave excites their imagination, and they wait with endless patience, curiosity, and great pleasure for what would be discovered and collected for their treasure bucket.

The sun is hot, and they are busy with their explorations. They seem to merge completely with the place, full of life forces, pleasure, and curiosity, and happy together. There is no dimension of time, and they are here with all seriousness and intention. After a while, Dad comes and puts a hat on their heads and gives them water – without many words on his part and without any resistance on their part, as if he were an inseparable part of their being. More time passes and they seem to be getting tired, and they help each other collect and organize their belongings. Mom sees and comes to help, curious and interested in their findings and they enthusiastically show and tell what is in the bucket. Mom listens calmly and when they are satisfied, she invites them to come with her; it is time to go home. I sit enchanted, treasuring this moment in my heart as hope for all the children in the world.

How can we as early childhood educators and caregivers create a safe and healthy environment for the young child so that she can unfold her full potential and fulfil her tasks on earth? Which seeds need to be sown and nurtured so that the children who come to us today can meet the challenges of the future?

In honour of the 100th anniversary of the Waldorf-Steiner Early Childhood Education, IASWECE, together with the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum, invite you to participate in an international conference that will address these questions.

Kindness - Strength - Love: Seeds for a Healthy Unfolding is the title of our conference. The conference will be diverse and colourful and will bring together currents and cultures with the goal of meeting and working together, of collecting as many seeds as possible for the healthy development of children in today's challenging world. They know what they came to do and ask us to show them the way and create for them the conditions that are conducive to realising their destiny. They need us to hold for them the image of the goodness of the world and the hope for a better world. For us as educators to succeed in these challenging times, Steiner calls us to put our intention into self-education, so that the children, through our example and their own will, can educate themselves based on their destiny for their future.



What a task!!!!

Inspired by this and as preparation and exploration for the conference, the IASWECE Council chose to study and work with the 7 conditions for walking on the spiritual path, as indicated by Rudolf Steiner in Chapter 5 of *How to Know Higher Worlds*.

We encourage you, wherever you are in the world, to study this important text as part of your inner work as an early childhood educator, to support your work, and as preparation for the conference.

The conference will be held from April 8th-12th, 2026 at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland.

The lectures and the workshops will be given by people from diverse cultures and in different languages from around the world. Puppet plays from 14 different cultures will be presented and many more initiatives and activities will take place. Above all, it will be 5 days of meeting colleagues from all around the world who care for young children and would like to create the best conditions for their unfolding and development for the next 100 years.

In September, you will receive an announcement about the meeting with all the details and how to register. We look forward to seeing you there!

Michal Reshef is an early childhood educator and parent consultant. Currently she represents Israel in the Council of IASWECE.

[Appeal for travel support – Conference 2026](#)