

The Participants Speak: We Want More!

Thoughts and impressions from the Participants at the World Early Childhood Conference



Many participants have been keen to share their thoughts on the event with us. We have selected a few of the written comments we have received and have reproduced them faithfully in their original language and style.

If you would still like to send us your comments, please do not hesitate to send them to info@iaswece.org.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the community who hold the space during the conference. The space was welcoming with warmth and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to engage and get to know much about other Waldorf schools from the entire world. My highlights and my take in view of the conference thoughts and the perspectives for the work we do with early Childhood, reminding us to focus on the life and the work with young children: strength, love and kindness, creating a space for the child to feel safe and secure and develop healthy self-esteem, building the foundation that will help the children in their future -transform your own being-, planting seeds -working for the future-, listening to what the universe wants, observing. My inspiration was the Bamboo Tree and how we can learn from it. We learn to heal, get stronger like Bamboo growing roots. Roots stay connected. You return and keep watering the roots. We are the golden thread we keep going. Gestures: Steadfastness is the Action on what we do. Steadfastness: Means being firmly fixed, loyal and Unwavering even when things get hard, slow or stormy. Stay rooted together. Gratitude: is to embrace love and make us find the light.

Nopinki



Quiero expresar mi más profundo agradecimiento por el esfuerzo y la excelente organización del encuentro. Fue un evento bello, nutritivo e inolvidable, donde cada detalle contribuyó a crear una atmósfera especial y enriquecedora para todos los asistentes. Me resulta difícil encontrar palabras que describan todo lo vivido durante esos días. La calidez de quienes se acercaron, escucharon e interesaron por el trabajo que estamos desarrollando en nuestro país fue realmente conmovedora. Este apoyo y reconocimiento nos motivan a seguir adelante, fortalecer nuestras iniciativas y nuestra relación con una pedagogía que entra en territorios sociales diversos y necesitados de una mejor educación.

Anita

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work, the careful organisation, and the warmth with which you hosted this conference. There were a few moments that were particularly inspiring for me: I found the communal singing in the morning to be a very unifying element. Despite the diversity of participants from different countries, this created a shared sense of purpose, which was deepened in a special way by the various languages and even by the eurhythmic expression. I found the discussion groups following the content-rich lectures to be an important space not only to take in what had been heard, but also to process it individually and to form a more personal connection with it. In this way, individual aspects could be carried forward and truly internalised. The artistic conclusion in the evening was also of great significance to me. It opened up a space in which the day's impressions could settle and transform into a calmer, deeper form. Being part of this special community and learning from it was a great enrichment for me.

Arefeh

Now the little seeds we got from Goetheanum are sprouting in my garden and within me still many good moments and thoughts are growing of the rich time in Dornach we spent together. I want to say a very big THANK YOU to all of you!!! It was so wonderful, peaceful, beautiful ...full...

Birgit-Marie



I thought that the opening ceremony was pitch-perfect and the presentations were all excellent. Using the seven conditions as anchor points worked very well. The workshops and discussion groups seemed to flow smoothly, an amazing organisational feat in the light of the numbers involved. The evening events were all wonderful, contrasting experiences, and the extra opportunities to dance and sing were lovely. It was a wonderfully young and diverse audience and so enthusiastic in their responses. I am very glad that IASWECE and the Pedagogical Section were able to attract such an audience which gives plenty of hope for the future. Thank you for all your work, warmth and good will. You were a team full of kindness, strength and love. Much appreciation and very good wishes,
Jill

The conference was a truly successful gathering -everyone received so much, and it became a very special, valuable, festival-like meeting in each person's life journey. Our teachers saw the value and meaning of diversity in IASWECE. Thank you all again. With a lot of love and gratitude,
Li

What a momentous birthday celebration to have attended. I felt so privileged to have this opportunity and to be inspired by all the thousands of other teachers, therapists, artists, puppeteers, eurythmists and all-round inspiring humans. As always there is so much to take in but there are always words or phrases that stick and that continue to carry one into the realm of daily life. Some of these are 'Here we have time', 'Do less but, be present with what we are doing'. The wonderful variety of speakers all touched on and deepened the six requirements, each bringing their particular flair to the discussion. Some of the highlights is the singing in the morning to help us truly arrive and then followed by the Eurythmy and the Peace Dance Verse. With immense gratitude,
Magda

I would like to show my gratitude for your kindness and for giving me such an opportunity to be part of the conference this year. The conference was really fruitful for my work; I have taken a lot to use in my everyday life. Gratitude, work for love not for the results, making a safe space and the bamboo example was my highlight. It was really nice that it was not only focusing only on the children but the teacher as well. As we tend to forget about ourselves and focus more into the work that we are doing, it brought awareness that I need to slow down a bit. Creating a healthy environment for both teachers and children is the most important thing, the child will feel welcomed, seen, and loved. Seven conditions were the nice theme for the conference.

Nomathemba

The Conference was interesting and enjoyable. The Professors were very generous and came armed with nutritious food that reached hungry stomachs. All this made me reborn. The Professors cooked for us a meal with gratitude, with 7 conditions etc, which is where I was captivated and I hope it will be a knowledge that will never end. I am very grateful to be part of this conference. It is very important that you do not sit still and seek new knowledge that will enhance your life. God bless you IASWECE.

Nosicelo

I just wanted to say thank you for such a wonderful conference and celebration. I can imagine the amount of work and dedication that it took to plan but also to ensure it ran smoothly. I am very grateful, in a world that seems increasingly challenging and gloomy, you brought us light, joy and love - thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Sam

I want to say thank you. Thank you from my heart, soul and spirit, for all the work you took to organize such an event. I have to say, as probably many people told you, that it was a total success. Just sometimes one wanted to be able to split and go to more workshops or debate groups or have time to talk with the people one was meeting and meeting, till the point that at the end of the Conference, you felt you knew so many people. I will not mention things one by one, but from the singing in the auditorium till all the speeches and rooms for group work. What a time of our lives to live that experience. Like if the world 'had become Anthroposophical at once, from Spain to Australia, from Isla de Pascua till Nepal, from Ethiopia till Japan... Let's keep the flame alive, despite times around be more or less challenging.

Sergi

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support given enabling me to attend this very special conference. I understand it took a lot of time and energy getting funding to support us. I am deeply grateful for being able to be a part of this 100-year celebration and take back and share with my colleagues, so many meaningful moments and treasures to carry into our work. I have already shared my experience in our General Teachers meeting and touched many others in doing so. I feel privileged to have been able to attend and am honoured to be a part of this movement.

Many thanks,

Wendy

This sharing also felt deeply connected to the wider movement of Waldorf early childhood education. The international conference marking one hundred years of the Steiner Waldorf Kindergarten took place at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, the world centre of the



Anthroposophical Society and the School of Spiritual Science, founded by Rudolf Steiner. This space, dedicated to the integration of art, science, and education, continues to offer inspiration to educators across the world. Within this larger context, Philipp Reubke's reflection feels especially resonant: "A small child needs our kindness, our inner strength and our love. The more we cultivate these qualities, the better the child will do. Living and working with a small child can be an enormous challenge. But it can also be an enormous opportunity to turn to these qualities, which do not easily thrive in today's living conditions."

As I look back, I feel that the workshop was, in itself, a circle, a space of meeting, sharing, and becoming. In the Waldorf kindergarten, we do not rush the child; we trust the unfolding. Perhaps this was the greatest gift of the experience, a renewed faith that when we come together with sincerity and care, we create spaces where kindness, strength, and love may truly take root.

Zeenat

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for such a beautiful and inspiring conference. From start to finish it was a nourishing experience that reminded me why I fell in love with this work in the first place. The lectures carried such depth and warmth. They reminded us that our presence as teachers is the most powerful tool we have — that we are laying seeds for the future (one day they'll bloom into beautiful flowers), living role models, a quiet light for the children entrusted to us. It was a gentle but powerful call to bring more awareness, love, and intention into every part of our day, especially in how we prepare the classroom and hold the space for the children. A reminder that children are learning through imitation, and they learn from every move and gesture we make each day, and the importance of slowing down and allowing our children to learn from our movements. I was particularly touched by the reflections on the 7 conditions in the young child's life. Hearing this brought such clarity and reverence for the foundation we are helping to lay in these early years. It

deepened my understanding of how each condition supports the child's sense of safety, health, and will, and how consciously we must hold this responsibility with care and humility. There was such a beautiful spirit of togetherness throughout the conference -a sense of shared purpose and deep respect for the sacredness of early childhood. Thank you for creating a space where teachers can be strengthened, inspired, and reminded of the light they carry. With love and deep gratitude,
Zoliswa

Luego de un encuentro tan hermoso y enriquecedor no puedo dejar de escribirles y expresar toda mi gratitud a la IASWECE, a la Sección Pedagógica y todos quienes trabajaron con tanto esmero y cariño por hacer posible el Encuentro. Me traigo los mejores recuerdos e inspiraciones para trabajar con mis compañeras y familias.

Beatriz