

Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Education



Part-Time Program 2010–2012

Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto



Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Education

Our two-year, part-time certificate program in early childhood teacher education covers the essentials of Waldorf early childhood from birth to seven years. It prepares currently practising teachers and assistants for the challenges of working in a Waldorf kindergarten, nursery, playgroup, parent and child, or home-care setting. Each year is made up of a three-week intensive session in the summer, together with a one-week session each fall and spring.

Course Dates

Year I	Summer Term	June 27 – July 16, 2010
	Fall Term	October 31- Nov 5, 2010
	Spring Term	March 2011

Year II Summer Term 2011, Fall Term 2011, Spring Term 2012

Prerequisites for Admission

- Currently practising in a Waldorf early childhood setting
- Foundation in anthroposophy
- Completion of preparatory reading list
- Computer and Internet access
- Some postsecondary education

Course of Study

- Anthroposophical understanding of the development of the human being from birth to adulthood, based on the research of Rudolf Steiner and other contemporary sources
- *Essentials of Waldorf Early Childhood Education* as outlined by the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) from birth to seven years
- Emphasis on the developmental needs of the child from pre-birth to three, the nursery child, and the kindergarten-age child, including remedial needs
- Development of the inner life of the teacher through biography work, artistic activities, singing, movement, and meditative practice
- Creating a nurturing environment for the child's life forces to offset the impact of the modern milieu in such areas as nutrition, life style, and media exposure
- Domestic, artistic, and practical activities in the classroom
- Festivals and the cycle of the year
- Building a strong community life, working with parents and colleagues
- Classroom management and creative discipline
- Guided independent study: child observation, assigned reading, and individual research

Mentoring and Evaluation

Each student will have an experienced teacher as a mentor. The mentor will be available for six phone sessions, one a month, plus one in-person meeting per term. In addition, a yearly mentor/evaluation visit at the school where the student teaches will provide consultation and support. Where observation at the student's school is not possible, other teaching practice needs to be arranged by the student.

Certification

On completion of all course requirements, Rudolf Steiner Centre Toronto will issue a Certificate of Course Completion in Waldorf Early Childhood Education. This certificate will carry the approval and authority of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) and the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN).





Tuition and Expenses

- Deadline for registration, April 30, 2010
- Fee \$5,500 CAD per year payable in three installments, June, September, February
- An additional \$100 non-refundable processing fee must accompany the application
- A \$300 non-refundable deposit (deducted from total fee) is required upon acceptance
- Fees include lunch, snacks, and class materials
- Approximately \$300 for books and additional supplies per year
- Accommodation, evening meals, and travel expense are the responsibility of the student. Students will receive a list of housing that provides bed and breakfast and is accessible by public transportation
- An AWSNA loan/grant may be available

Application Requirements

- Send completed application form with processing fee and recent photograph
- Include a letter of intention outlining prerequisite study in anthroposophy, a brief profile, reasons for applying, and your professional goals
- Include two written references related to your teaching experience
- Include note from physician confirming you are in good health and fit to undertake training
- An interview in person or by phone
- Police clearance letter (upon acceptance)
- Students from outside Canada are advised to obtain health insurance
- US citizens will need a passport to re-enter your country after visiting Canada
- Students must be able to attend all sessions

For more information and to discuss individual circumstances please contact the director

Core Faculty

Jan Patterson, Director of Early Childhood Teacher Education, completed her Foundation Studies at Emerson College and her early childhood training with Margret Meyerkort at Wynstones, England. She has taught for over 17 years in England, the USA, and Canada. She has served on the WECAN Board and is an active mentor and consultant in Waldorf schools in Ontario. She is also a co-director of the full-time teacher education program at the Rudolf Steiner Centre.

Sue Martin has over 15 years of teaching experience in kindergarten, nursery, and parent and child. She graduated from Gradalis Institute with a specialized remedial training for children from birth to seven. Currently a WECAN mentor, she also evaluates teachers and assesses and assists children with motor and developmental challenges.

Contributing Faculty

Anna Gruda	Painting, drawing
Fiona Hughes MD	Anthroposophical medical perspective
Veronica Jackson	Singing, lyre
Warren Lee Cohen	Breadbaking
Carol Nasr Griset	Home child-care
Stacey Schwarz	Spatial dynamics, eurythmy
Annette Wintjes	Handwork, festival crafts, puppetry

Other teachers to be confirmed

Front cover art Georg Locher, back cover art Leigh Mellor, verse Alliance for Childhood





Childhood

Childhood is a time for learning about the essentials~
about the heavenly world and the earthly,
about goodness, beauty and truth.

Childhood is a time to be loved and to love,
to express fear and to learn trust,
to be serious, to be calm,
and to celebrate with laughter and joy...

The spirit of childhood calls for protection and nurture.
It is an essential part of every human being
and needs to be kept alive.