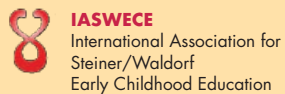




The Early Childhood Teacher Education Center

2019 Teacher Education Programs
and Summer Institute



at Sophia's Hearth

700 Court St., Keene, NH 03431
sophiashearthteachers.org 603.357.3755



Our Vision

It is our vision that Waldorf early childhood education strengthens caregivers and teachers to work with joy, courage, and a spiritual picture of the human being. Through preparation for their vocation, they will become guardians of family life and of the incarnating child so that each child will have a strong foundation from which to fulfill his destiny.

Welcome

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATION CENTER at Sophia's Hearth was created as a path of learning and personal transformation for those interested in Waldorf early childhood education as a vocation.

Through our teacher education programs, you will be supported in your journey to become the teacher of your dreams. You will be empowered to offer what children and parents seek today – one who can combine fresh insights, personal sensitivity, and knowledge of well-researched practices with the radiant warmth that comes with recognizing the spiritual essence of childhood and parenthood.

We offer professional development opportunities that range from one-day weekend workshops, to three- or five-day Summer Institute courses, to a full birth-to-seven certificate in Waldorf early childhood education that is recognized by the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN), of which Sophia's Hearth is a full member. In all aspects of our Center, we strive to serve as a living expression of hospitality and community building. We have cultivated ties to colleagues throughout the world to share and to learn.

Our gifted and experienced faculty members are practitioners, innovators, researchers, and international presenters in their fields. Our own reflective teaching work, out of which many of the insights for our teacher education program have risen, finds its expression here with the children and parents of Sophia's Hearth.

Come and study with us for a vital, life-changing experience!

Katherine

KATHERINE SCHARFF
DIRECTOR, TEACHER
EDUCATION

Susan

SUSAN WEBER
FOUNDING FACULTY

Jane

JANE SWAIN
CORE FACULTY

Janene

JANENE PING
CORE FACULTY

What Makes Sophia's Hearth Unique?

Sophia's Hearth is the first program in North America with a birth-to-three specialization preparation embedded in its full teacher education program. Every student completes our birth-to-seven program with a depth of understanding and capacities for this critical aspect of the human journey.

Sophia's Hearth is unique within Waldorf early childhood teacher education centers in North America in the integration of our teacher education with our other programs at our Center, including the daily care of infants and young children. Our students, who come from across North America and around the world, are encouraged to come to observe or complete a practicum within our center if they wish.

We are also unique in our integration

of the work of the Pikler Institute into our program, bringing its insights into the study of Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy and Waldorf education. These practical pedagogical insights support the unfolding of human dignity, human freedom, and human potential for self-development in each child and family.

Our graduates are empowered to help each child build a strong foundation for a lifetime of intellectual development, social and emotional growth, and physical well-being.



Professional Development Opportunities

The Teacher Education Center at Sophia's Hearth offers professional development opportunities that range from one-day weekend workshops, to three or five-day Summer Institute courses, to a full Waldorf early childhood teacher education program.



Summer Institute

Our Summer Institute offers courses each July with themes that change from summer to summer.

NEW! Incarnational Support

Advanced study for graduates of a Waldorf certificate program, or by permission of the instructor. See page 11.

Weekend Workshops

Our weekend workshops are offered through the fall, winter, and spring. Each Saturday workshop explores a theme in early childhood education from the resources of Waldorf educa-

tion, the Pikler Institute in Hungary, or Spatial Dynamics.® Movement development, therapeutic education, and working with parents are all themes of these special Saturdays.

Observation Days

Observation days at Sophia's Hearth are an opportunity to sit in on our facilitated parent and infant or toddler classes, or our full-time year-round preschool and childcare program for children from three months to six years and to share this experience in a reflective conversation.



"I am so happy to have met a training that actually encourages inquiry and observation as a living and working process."

— Course participant

Birth-to-Seven Waldorf Early Childhood Teacher Education Certificate Program (450 hours)

Graduates of this full program receive a certificate confirming that this training is recognized by Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) and the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education.

This low-residency program is structured over three years. Four residential summer sessions "bookend" the program, with residential weeks during the school years. Embedded in the program design are:

- a practicum/classroom experience;
- mentoring with an experienced Waldorf early childhood educator;
- a collegial approach that builds connections within each cohort and beyond;
- a birth-to-three specialization.

Practicum/Classroom Experience

Working directly with young children is an integral part of preparing for early childhood teaching. Without this intimate association with children and parents, the actual capacities for one's work cannot unfold, the true questions cannot arise, and the learning through reflection cannot take place. We, therefore, require that you be involved in a Waldorf early childhood

classroom throughout the time you are in your teacher education program for a minimum of three half-days per week. The practicum continues throughout the time of study. You will also participate in two weeks of observation and /or practicum in a classroom other than your own. Students have the option to complete this at Sophia's Hearth. This is a great opportunity to grow and connect.

We support each student in finding an appropriate setting for the practicum and encourage every applicant to consider a plan for his or her practicum location and commitment.

Mentoring

Sophia's Hearth provides a program advisor and a classroom-visiting mentor for each student. Each student has the opportunity to work with this experienced Waldorf early childhood educator, who is familiar with each student's studies, visiting the student in his or her

professional setting throughout the program. Costs for mentoring are included in the tuition.

Cohort

We believe in a collegial approach to education that finds strength in community and sharing the richness of insights and experiences along one's educational journey. You will have the opportunity to share with, learn from, and develop close connections with your peers in our cohort model. You will also have the opportunity to network with students who are in different years of the program at certain times during residencies.

Birth-to-Three

The birth-to-three specialization work is an integrated program of study that provides a philosophical, practical, and artistic foundation for the care of young children and for supporting family life. Waldorf education forms the basis of the program, complemented by the work and research of the Pikler Institute in Hungary.

Beyond The First Three Years

You will develop insights and practical capacities for work with children as they emerge from the protected period of the first three years. As the child moves beyond these earliest years, the teacher is prepared to offer

a new quality of relationship with the child, with transforming rhythms and gentle changes in the content of daily life.

The Kindergarten Years

With the first phases of the development of movement, language, and social life now in place, children look more clearly toward the group and look further outward into the world. Your studies now bring to life the developmental phases of the first seven years. Anthroposophical studies and an advanced personal research project continue to deepen the teacher's foundation for her or his vocation.

The Birth-to-Seven Certificate is for:

- Those who wish to complete a Waldorf early childhood teacher education program that prepares for teaching children in the first seven years;



- Teachers who teach in nursery or kindergarten settings;
- Teachers who facilitate parent-infant and parent-toddler classes and those who work with expectant parents;
- Early childhood teachers working with toddlers and nursery children; or
- Childcare providers in center- or home-based care.

Included in the Curriculum:

- Anthroposophical Studies and the Inner Life of the Teacher;
- Child Development I and II: Physical, cognitive, social-emotional and spiritual development, gross motor and fine motor development, and reflexes and sensory development. Pikler Institute research and practice in infant and toddler motor development and care is included.
- Language Development;
- Nutrition;
- Social and Emotional Development of Children;
- Children's Health;
- Working with Pedagogical Law;
- The Birth of the Etheric and First Grade Readiness;
- Spiritual Embryology and Fetal Development;
- Advance Study of the Senses;
- Child Observation and Child Study;
- Festival Life for Young Children and their Families;
- Gardening with Children and Biodynamic Agriculture;
- Deepening Our Knowledge of the Child: Reflex Maturation;
- Building Relationships with Parents;
- Biography Studies;
- Communication with Adults;
- Exploring the Social Mission of Waldorf Education;
- Parenting and Teaching in a Complex World;
- Adult Movement for the Educator: Spatial dynamics, Eurythmy;
- Arts and Handcrafts for the Adult: Music, creative speech, painting, doll making, creating puppets, etc.;
- Working Artistically with Young Children: Imagination, Inspiration, and Intuition. Circle Songs, Verse and Games for the Kindergarten Child;
- Storytelling and Puppetry Arts: Fairy Tales and Other Pedagogical Applications;
- Independent research projects.

Program Sequence

Each cohort starts the program in the summer.

Summer I **June 30 - July 12, 2019**

Two Week Residency

Fall **November 2019**

One Week Residency

Spring **March/April 2020**

One Week Residency

Summer II **June/July 2020**

Two Week Residency

Between Summer II and III, students have an opportunity to focus on practicum/classroom experiences, as well as keep in touch with their cohort via webinars offered to fit students' schedules.

Summer III June/July 2021

Three Week Residency

Winter January 2022

One Week Residency

Summer IV June/July 2022

Three Week Residency and Graduation

Tuition and Assistance

Tuition for the Birth-to-Seven Certificate is \$19,600 and includes the Birth-to-Three Specialization. Sophia's Hearth is committed to making teacher education as affordable as possible while ensuring that students receive a high-quality experience that will allow them to make a real difference in the lives of children, families, and workplaces. Here are some examples of assistance available to you depending on your needs and circumstances:

- AWSNA provides options for financial assistance for those working in a Waldorf school;
- If you are a Vermont resident, you may be eligible for VSAC grants;
- The Michael Foundation may be a resource for an individual grant;
- Lisa Freeman Scholarship Fund;
- Macalaster-Weber Scholarship Fund of Sophia's Hearth;
- Interest-free payment plans.

See the Difference For Yourself

We are here to help you explore early childhood teacher education at Sophia's Hearth. Call, email, or plan a visit to meet with a teacher education faculty member, along with a chance to observe our on-site programs with infants, toddlers, and young children. And visit sophiashearthteachers.org to access the application checklist, complete course descriptions, more faculty bios, and selected videos.



Katherine Scharff, Susan Weber, Janene Ping, Jane Swain; our leadership faculty.

Birth-to-Three Specialization

Although the Birth-to-Seven Certificate gives students the most flexibility in career opportunities, students who plan to work only with children from birth to three may be interested in completing our Birth-to-Three Specialization.

The Birth-to-Three Specialization is for:

- Those who wish to complete a Waldorf early childhood teacher education program that prepares for teaching children from birth to three years of age;
- Teachers who facilitate parent-infant and parent-toddler classes and those who work with expectant parents;
- Early childhood teachers working with toddlers and nursery children;
- Childcare providers in center- or home-based care.

Program Sequence

Summer I June 30 - July 12, 2019

Two Week Residency

Fall November 2019

One Week Residency

Spring March/April 2020

One Week Residency

Summer II June/July 2020

Two Week Residency



Tuition for only the Birth-to-Three Specialization is \$9,900. This specialization is included in the Birth-to-Seven certificate program. In most cases, the same tuition assistance options are available.

*"The child comes to earth with wisdom.
We as adults have earthly experience so that we
may provide the child with a supportive environment,
caregiving, rhythm. We must trust the child's wisdom."*

— Course participant



Summer Institute Courses, 2019

Classes are held Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.
Immerse yourself for a restorative week of rich, transformative
study with wonderful classmates and gifted teachers.

These courses are open to all.

Summer Institute Courses are for:

- Early childhood teachers interested in professional development;
- Parents, grandparents, or other family members interested in deepening their understanding of child development and care of very young children;
- Professionals in fields who work with or on behalf of very young children and their families (health care, social work, counselors, ministers, wellness, etc.);
- Childcare providers in center- or home-based care;
- Those interested in pursuing a career in early childhood education or in working with very young children and their families in another capacity.

NEW COURSE!

INCARNATIONAL SUPPORT

June 24 – 28 (five days)

Tuition \$690

*Jane Swain, Janene Ping, Nancy Mellon,
Stevie Ross*

Sophia's Hearth, in collaboration with the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America, welcomes teachers to further pedagogical exploration and personal development in this week-long course that addresses the incarnational challenges of children today. How do we objectively see the child before us? What can the educator do to support the healing needed in these present times of challenging disruption? Where does the capacity for healthy resilience live? These questions will be addressed during course work that builds insight and practical skills for the teacher in the realm of physical, soul, and spiritual support for the child, parent, and self. This course is a post-graduate level course and is intended for

participants who have completed a Waldorf Early Childhood Training, or upon consideration and acceptance by the instructors, for those working therapeutically with children under nine years from a Waldorf perspective.



HOW TO BE A HEALING STORYTELLER AT ANY MOMENT

June 24 – 28 (five days)

Tuition \$690

Nancy Mellon, Janene Ping

Children need reliable and creative storytellers every day, and sometimes in the middle of the night. Sharing stories, we support the child's incarnation and development. Stories enable

children to view life from other perspectives, an important skill that can help cultivate empathy and problem-solving. This course will include a variety of artistic exercises as well as practical guidance for parents, teachers, and caretakers of young children. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your ability to share the power of stories to heal, uplift, strengthen, and transform.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT I & II July 1 – 5 and July 8 – 12

Tuition \$690 per five-day course

Susan Weber, Jane Swain, Janene Ping, Katherine Scharff, Kim Snyder-Vine, Michelle Prindle

These courses are eligible for graduate credit from Antioch University New England.

Participants may enroll in the first week only or for both weeks. The first week begins by examining the child's development from the perspective of spirit, physical growth, and emotional life through the study of gross and fine motor movement, reflexes, and sensory development in the young child. The second week focuses on the development of the child's emerging self and social capacities, conflict, and further exploration in sensory development and reflexes. Hands-on; lecture and discussion, along with artistic experiences.

College Credit and Credentialing

Sophia's Hearth is a Project Partner with Antioch Center for School Renewal at Antioch University New England in Keene. This partnership enables our students to receive graduate credit from Antioch University for the Child Development I & II course.

Sophia's Hearth also partners with River Valley Community College (part of the University

System of New Hampshire) that will provide three undergraduate course credits as part of their credit by exam program for those students who complete Child Development I.

Members of our faculty carry credentials as New Hampshire Early Childhood Master Professionals enabling students to receive New Hampshire credentialing hours for their study here. Courses taught by Susan Weber, Jane Swain and Nancy Macalaster provide this credential.

AN INTRODUCTION TO WALDORF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

July 8 – 12 (five days)

Tuition \$690

Heather Church, Michelle Pringle

Join a week-long exploration of the inner and outer artistic and practical activities of a Waldorf teacher working in Waldorf nursery-kindergartens, home care programs, childcare centers, parent-child programs, and other settings. Some of the areas that will be covered:

- The unfolding development of the child from pre-birth to seven;
- How to encourage self-initiated play;
- The four foundational senses;
- Artistic activities that foster the healthy development of imagination and creativity;

- Rhythms through the day, week, and year, including festivals;
 - Development of healthy social relationships among parents, teachers, and children;
 - Inner work of the teacher.
- These themes will come to life through presentations, experiential activities, and conversations.





**CREATING AND STRENGTH-
ENING PARENT AND CHILD
WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

July 8 – 10 (three days)

Tuition \$435

*Susan Weber, Nancy Macalaster,
Katherine Scharff*

Gain insights and capacities for leading groups with parents and their infants and toddlers. We will address questions of rhythm, classroom furnishings and materials, and songs and verses to meet the various developmental stages. There will be particular attention to the Pikler approach as it finds expression in the parent-child classes.

To support language development, you will take home a repertoire of songs and games including those of Wilma Elersiek.



“To summarize my own personal experience, it is the overwhelming sense of dignity, value, and importance of our work with children”

— Course participant



"The level of wisdom we have to learn from our teachers I find so humbling. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the energy, passion, and enthusiasm Jane and Susan bring to this work! It feels so cutting edge, which is incredibly exciting to be a part of, and I feel such passion myself with the teaching, but also with the sensing and experiencing of the timeliness of this knowledge."

— Course participant



I feel that the work that I am doing here at Sophia's Hearth and with the people here at Sophia's Hearth is helping me to deepen my understanding of children, my understanding of myself, and then where we meet in the world. The movement pieces are incredibly helpful—not just for how a child might come into standing, but for how I move in the world.

— MOLLY MACDONALD
PARENT AND CHILD GROUP TEACHER
RIVER VALLEY WALDORF SCHOOL
UPPER BLACK EDDY, PENNSYLVANIA

For me, the training at Sophia's Hearth was a journey into oneself; to know yourself deeply first and then come out on the other side searching for the way to authentically, with truth and knowledge, meet the person in front of you. That couldn't be fully possible if I had not first taken the journey within myself and learned empathy and understanding for the other person.

— SARAH WIBERG
"LITTLE BIRD" SCHOOL, FOUNDER
CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND



What I am seeing happening to my classmates and to myself is that there is an inner transformation that is happening; not only am I able to understand and work with a young child in a more meaningful way, but it is also penetrating other areas and all aspects of my life. And becoming more human, in a way, here.

— AMANDA VILES
HARTSBROOK WALDORF SCHOOL
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

See our website for full video interviews.



“Researchers have beautifully affirmed what we naturally feel: that the gesture of the adult with the newborn, the infant, and the young child is a powerful, formative influence. Who I am enables the child to become who she is. Whether we are parents, or teachers, our hope is to bring an authentic and happy face and a joyful welcome.”

—From *Singing and Speaking the Child into Life*
by Susan Weber, Nancy Macalaster and Jane Swain

Core Faculty

Our experienced faculty is drawn from early childhood specialists, therapists, and artists with backgrounds in Waldorf early childhood education and complementary disciplines. For more faculty bios and information, please visit our website: sophiashearthteachers.org.



Katherine Scharff

is the Director of Teacher Education at Sophia's Hearth. She is also a pre-school and parent-child teacher at the Waldorf School of Saratoga, New York as well as a Simplicity Parenting Family Life Coach. She has completed the Sophia's Hearth full Waldorf teacher education program and additional training in the Pikler approach. With her background in nursing and specialized training in the anthroposophical approach to nursing, Katherine brings these skills to our teacher education students.



Susan Weber brings many years of experience in Waldorf early childhood teacher education as a Waldorf early childhood teacher, public school teacher, and administrator.

She has completed advanced training at the Pikler Institute in Budapest, Hungary. She is one of the founders of Sophia's Hearth and served as its executive director for over 20 years. Susan presents at local, national, and international conferences.



Jane Swain is a pediatric physical therapist and a graduate of the Level III Spacial Dynamics® training program. She is certified in Bothmer Gymnastics, Sensory Integration Praxis testing, and in Bobath/

Neurodevelopmental Treatment for children with cerebral palsy and other neuromotor disorders. She has studied at the Pikler Institute in Budapest, Hungary, and has provided classroom consultations for preschool and elementary-aged children for many years. Jane presents at conferences and workshops in the United States and internationally.



Janene Ping is a lead kindergarten teacher at the Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School in New York. She studied humanities at San Francisco State University and completed a degree in

Waldorf Early Childhood Education from Sunbridge College. She has taught puppetry arts at the Center for Anthroposophy and at the Rudolf Steiner Institute. Janene is the artistic director at the Magical Puppet Tree.



Nancy Macalaster

facilitated our Joyful Beginnings parent and child classes for many years. She holds a master's degree in counseling psychology from Antioch University New

England. She is a graduate of Sophia's Hearth's Birth-to-Three Specialization and has completed advanced training at the Pikler Institute in Budapest, Hungary. Nancy has also received advanced certification as a New Hampshire Early Childhood and Family Mental Health professional.

The Details

For more information, registration and answers to frequently asked questions, visit our website: sophiashearthteachers.org

Registration

To register for the **Birth-to-Seven Certificate**, or the **Birth-to-Three Program**, go online for an application and details. You will need the following information:

- Application Form (fill on-line or print);
- Non-refundable \$100 application fee (payable through PayPal even without an account);
- Current Resume (upload a PDF);
- Personal Statement (upload a PDF);
- Letter of recommendation (have letter mailed or emailed directly to Sophia's Hearth);
- Optional Financial Aid Application

Summer Institute Registration

Summer Institute courses are offered during the following weeks. To register, please visit sophiashearthteachers.org or call 603-357-3755.

June 24-28

- Incarnational Support
- How to be a Healing Storyteller at Any Moment

July 1-5

- Child Development I

July 8-10

- Creating and Strengthening Parent Child Work in Your Community

July 8-12

- Child Development II
- An Introduction to Waldorf Early Childhood Education

Tuition

Tuition for each Summer Institute five-day course is \$690. The three-day course is \$435. Tuition covers all course costs and includes daily whole-food lunches, shared in community. Travel, lodging, and other meal costs are the responsibility of the student. A late fee of \$50 will be added to any registration received after June 10, 2019.

Travel

We endeavor to help students who use air travel with ground transportation needs, helping them network with one another and providing contact information for airport pickup. Nearest airports are in Manchester, New Hampshire (Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, 1 ½ hours from Keene), and Windsor Locks, Connecticut (Bradley International Airport, 1 ¾ hours from Keene).

Housing

A housing list of local families, bed and breakfasts, campgrounds, and hotels is available upon request. These families look forward to supporting our work by welcoming our students into their homes. Many families offer the opportunity for students to prepare breakfast and dinner in their kitchens.



"We must bring an inner fire, an inner enthusiasm, to our work...

*The whole of our being must work in us as educators,
not only the thinking person; the person of feeling
and the person of will must also play their part."*

—Rudolf Steiner, from *The Kingdom of Childhood*

Sophia's Hearth

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