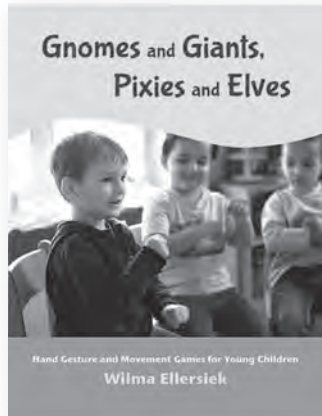


Publication News

The following books are strongly recommended for study in connection with the theme of this issue.

New Releases:

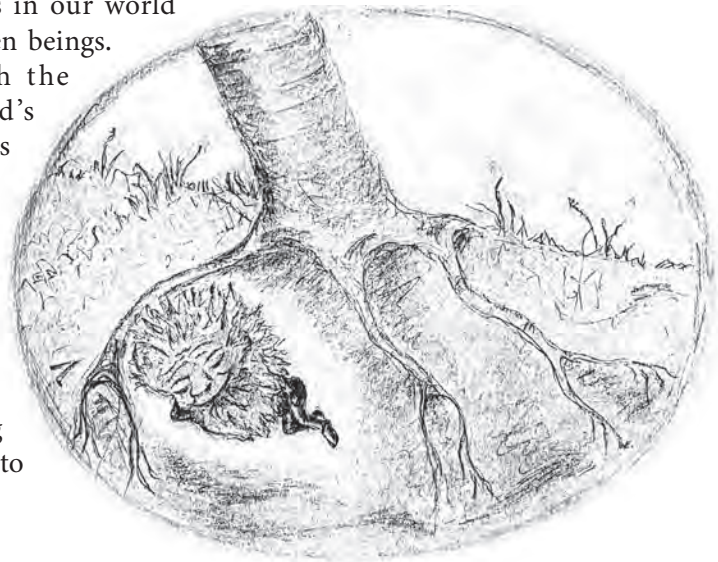


Gnomes and Giants, Pixies and Elves: Hand Gesture and Movement Games for Young Children, concludes the series of collections of hand gesture games by Wilma Ellersiek, which have brought much joy to children and adults. Lynn St. Pierre and Somer Serpe have valiantly continued and completed the work of translation begun by Kundry Willwerth.

Lynn says: “*Gnomes and Giants, Pixies and Elves* is an entire book of elemental plays. As the children embody the elementals, they orient themselves in our world of both seen and unseen beings. The connection with the elementals, in a child’s devotional way, brings health and well-being

and honors the elementals. The play reprinted in this volume of Gateways, ‘The Will o’ the Wisps,’ offers a beautiful, engaging experience of the beings of air and fire. As the children experience this elemental play, it nourishes their balance, self-movement and well-being, fortifying their four foundational senses.”

These imaginations and their accompanying movements will bring refreshing, enlivening forces to all who encounter them.



Drawing by Wilma Ellersiek

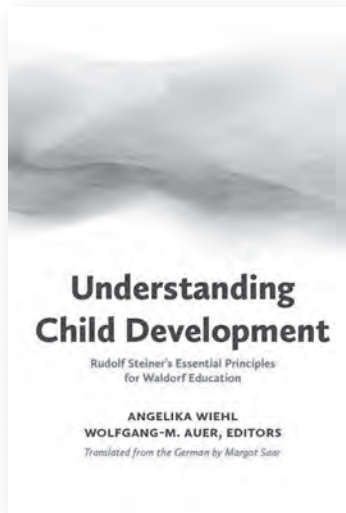
Speech Development in the Digital Age is a new edition of Rainer Patzlaff’s classic study, *Childhood Falls Silent*, revised and updated for today in an attractive format. The booklet has been translated by Margot Saar from the German version published in 2023 by the German Waldorf Kindergarten Association.

The first in a planned two-booklet series with the title of “Right to Childhood,” *Speech Development in the Digital Age* reports on the decline of speech and language development and the escalation of speech disorders over the last several decades. Patzlaff presents data and a thoughtful perspective on how we, as parents and caregivers, can downplay the influences of our digital devices and awaken our children to the treasures of the spoken word.

In her preface, Susan Howard notes that “Although the focus of the research has been on child development in Germany, it is clear in our times that these phenomena are being experienced worldwide, and we are very pleased to offer this important resource to the English-speaking Waldorf world.” Single copies are available, as well as bundles of 5 copies at a discounted price.



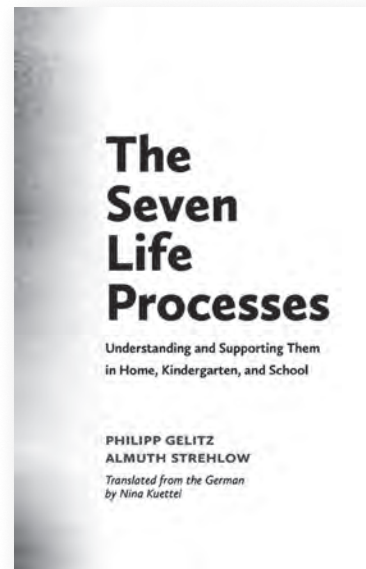
Treasures from the Backlist:



Understanding Child Development: Rudolf Steiner's Essential Principles for Waldorf Education is an important contribution to teacher development that comes from our colleagues in Europe. Edited by Angelika Wiehl and Wolfgang-M. Auer and translated from the German by Margot Saar, it

centers around a thoughtfully chosen and arranged selection of excerpts from Rudolf Steiner's works, which form a basis for meeting the needs of children out of a true, holistic understanding that supports them in the fullest way possible. Topics covered include the image of the human being in Waldorf education, child development, imitation, the sensory organization, imagination, play, rhythmic life, and the temperaments. The section concludes with sources that guide the educator in self-education, developing pedagogical intuition, and the practice of exercises for self-development.

Along with introducing the Steiner excerpts, the editors and other authors have contributed extended essays on the anthropology of childhood, imitation, sensory development, the study and practice of Waldorf education, and the future of childhood. With many years of experience as teachers and teacher trainers, they have made this a compact but very powerful resource that should be widely used and appreciated.



The Seven Life Processes — Understanding and Supporting them in Home, Kindergarten, and School has been called by Nancy Blanning “a WECAN publication classic to be returned to again and again.” Along with Rudolf Steiner's descriptions of the multiple aspects of

human experience and activity—the threefold soul forces of Thinking, Feeling, and Willing, the fourfold organization of physical, etheric, astral and I, the twelvefoldness of the senses—this book focuses on the sevenfold life processes of breathing, warming, nourishing, secreting or sorting, maintaining, growing, and reproducing or creating. As Nancy puts it, “This book organizes what can be a dizzying array of numbers into an accessible and practical framework of how the life processes weave and dance with and amongst all these other human aspects.”

The first half of the book explains how each of the life processes functions on a physiological level, and the second half tells what educators, parents, and other caregivers can do to support the healthy life and functioning of the life processes in practical, concrete ways. Nancy calls the section on “Salutogenic Teaching” in particular a “treasure chest of suggestions,” describing areas of weakness that can be supported by particular attention to one or another of the life processes.