

***Brazilian Kindergarten Conference***  
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***Sao Paulo, Brazil***

I worked as a Waldorf class teacher and as a kindergarten teacher for many years. Now I work as a coordinator in the Monte Azul Waldorf School, for very, very poor children in the “*favela*” in Sao Paulo. I was at the International Kindergarten Conference at Pine Hill and it was a great experience to be there. Because of your conference last year, we organized a Brazilian kindergarten conference which was held in August, 1997. We received a great impulse from your conference. Our kindergarten conference was very, very good. We could meet and share our experiences and feel that we are together in this hard, but beautiful work. Brazil is a very big country with a lot of poverty. We have now 120 kindergartens in all Brazil, north, central and south. They are like little seeds in the desert. In the central area, where we have only small, very poor villages, the Brazilian people are very open to Waldorf education. They “thirst” for new and good ways of working. It is imperative to organize more conferences and meetings, because these make us stronger for the work.

We had in our conference 120 teachers from all over Brazil, one from Uruguay and eight from Argentina. Dr. Bruno Callegaro and Almuth Voges, a kindergarten teacher and therapist from Germany gave us the lectures about “The Twelve Senses and the Seven Vital Processes”. The conference ran from Friday to Sunday. We opened the conference everyday singing together and then came the lectures. After, we worked in small groups with questions and examples about children with problems and how to work them out. We did eurythmy. We discussed a lot, sharing experiences. During one afternoon we had some hours for everybody to talk about their schools. Some shared very moving histories with courageous teachers. We ended with everybody singing and moving. We had an evaluation with new questions and a new theme for the next meeting. We promised it would happen next year - 1998, in Brazil.