

Book Review ***Stephen Spitalny***

The Challenge of the Will: Experiences with Young Children
by Margret Meyerkort and Rudi Lissau

This small book is a tremendous offering for anyone interested in deepening her understanding of the will and how it works in many facets of human life. Steiner characterized the will as an aspect of human life to which we are asleep. The authors, both Waldorf teachers of many years experience, offer some guidance for our own waking up to the working of the will in young children and in human beings of all ages. The various levels of the will, as described in lecture four of *The Study of Man* by Rudolf Steiner, are presented in a very accessible manner. From there, we are led through the penetration of will into the development of walking, speaking, and thinking.

Other topics include distinguishing between imitation and empathy, and a look at how rhythm for the young child is related to will development. Of particular interest, scattered throughout the book are pictures of how we as adults speak to the child and what might best serve the child's development. The tone of the book is very much one of question. We are not told what to do, but through the pictures that are offered we can make decisions as to how to meet the young child in the realm of the will. And finally, the book looks to the self-education of the adult as a key to the child's healthy development. When we can wake up in our own will, when we can act from higher levels of the will, we serve the needs of the children and are in alignment with the intentions of the creator beings. – S.S.

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