

Recommended Reading: Delving Deeper into Waldorf Education and Philosophy

Overview of Curriculum and Philosophy

*“Waldorf Education: A Family Guide” by Pamela Johnson Fenner and Karen L. Rivers **

An overview and deeper understanding of the Waldorf curriculum from 1st grade through high school, a peek into early childhood and the Waldorf kindergarten, the how and why of specialty subjects such as knitting, sewing, eurythmy (a form of dance movement unique to Waldorf), a look at rhythm, festivals and special celebrations, and how does this fit with your family's lifestyle?

“The Way of the Child” by A.C. Harwood

An excellent introduction to Waldorf education, particularly valuable for its clear explanation of how Waldorf education integrates with the fundamental stages of child development.

“32 Questions & Answers on Waldorf Education”

A newspaper type pamphlet answering commonly asked questions about Waldorf schools (available at Waldorf schools worldwide).

Early Childhood

“Beyond the Rainbow Bridge” by Barbara Patterson and Pamela Bradley

Find out more about how your child grows and learns about the world, what are the 12 senses and how you can nourish them, creating balance in your family life and how Waldorf educates supports the whole child.

*“You Are Your Child's First Teacher” by Rahima Baldwin Dancy **

Out of her research and her experience as a Waldorf early childhood teacher, she answers the question: “What can parents do with, and for their children from birth to age six that will enhance their development without having negative effects at a later age?”

“How Children Play” by Ingeborg Haller

Imaginative play is a vital element in the growth of the preschool child. A child's freedom to play lies at the root of a happy and well-balanced attitude to work and responsibilities in later life.

Elementary Grades

*“School as a Journey: The Eight Year Odyssey of a Waldorf Teacher and his Class” by Torin Finser **

A lively, colorful and absorbing account of one class teacher's journey from Grade 1-8 in a Waldorf School. Filled with pedagogical gems, tips and resources, it will also be invaluable to current class teachers.

*“Understanding Waldorf Education: Teaching From the Inside Out” by Jack Petrash **

Written by a Waldorf teacher who took three classes from Grade 1 through Grade 8, this book gives a deep understanding of what must transpire between students and teachers if real learning is to occur.

Question about media, early academics, pushing too quickly, etc.

“Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling” by John Taylor Gatto

In his 26 years of award winning teaching in New York City's public schools, Gatto has found that independent study, community service, large doses of solitude, and a thousand different apprenticeships with adults of all occupations are the keys to helping children break the thrall of our conforming society.

“The Plug-In Drug: Television, Children and the Family” by Marie Winn

Examines the effects of passive watching TV, video games, and computers on the development.

*“The Hurried Child” by David Elkind **

Makes a detailed examination of the world of today's children to see where the hurrying occurs and why, how we hurry in ways we may not even realize! Gives parents and teachers insight and hope for encouraging healthy development while protecting the joy and freedom of childhood. By the same author: “*Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon*”, “*The New Family Imbalance*”, “*The Ties That Stress*”.

“The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to my Children and Yours” by Marion Wright Edelman

A compassionate message for parents trying to raise moral children and a message of hope and purpose for everyone.