

Association for a Healing Education

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A Scaffold for Waldorf Teaching

by AHE Board Member Jeff Tunkey

The following is an attempt at an outline of core concepts that every Waldorf teacher might aspire to study and incorporate; at best, it represents a “first page” of topics for study and contemplation.

KEY CONCEPTS

A. Rudolf Steiner’s description of the human being

Threefold man; thinking, feeling and willing
Four temperaments
Six constitutional types
Twelve senses
Supersensible bodies
Spiritual psychology: anchoring the ego, etheric and astral bodies
Spatial man and the upper and lower triangles
Reincarnation
Karma
Chakras
Currents of the earth
Structural Physical Body and Constitutional Physical Body

B. Steiner’s pedagogical indications

Rhythm and breathing: the teacher’s primary task
Imitation and authority
Teaching from the whole to the part
Evolution of consciousness - in societies
Evolution of consciousness - from birth to old age; picture thinking; intellectualizing; media
Preparation and lesson planning
Pedagogical law
Meditation
Goethean observation
Laterality; man and the currents of the Earth

C. Developmental aspects - other sources

Dealing with parents: the gifts of fear, shame

and anger

Multiple intelligences

Six developmental keys according to “Take Time”

Development according to Dutch Waldorf Schools

The polarities of hysteria and epilepsy; kleptomania

Birth order

D. Background Anthroposophy

Meditation

Cosmic influences on earthly life and history; Lucifer & Ahriman; man as the working of the product of balance

The organs as mirror of the cosmos

The seasons and the festivals

RELATED FOUNDATIONAL READING

Karl König, M.D. - Being Human; The Human Soul; The First Three Years of the Child; Brother and Sister

Rudolf Steiner - The Karma of Untruthfulness, Lecture 19; Man as the Working of the Product of Balance; The Zone of the Senses; Discussions with Teachers; Soul Economy and Waldorf Education; The Study of Man; The Supplementary Course; Balance in Teaching

Walter Holtzapfel, M.D. - Children’s Destinies; Children with a Difference

M.E. Wilby, Ed. - Learning Difficulties

Herman Koepke - Encountering the Self

Audrey McAllen - The Extra Lesson; Teaching Children Handwriting; Sleep

F.J. Schonell - The Psychology and Teaching of Reading; Diagnosis and Remedial Teaching in Arithmetic

Mary Nash-Wortham, Jean Hunt - Take Time

Alfred Tomatis - Dyslexia; The Conscious Ear

Joep Eikenboom - Foundations of the Extra Lesson