

This conference will begin by exploring the characteristics and qualities that distinguish the very young child from the older child.

What is it that makes a 3-year-old, for example, unique from a 6-year-old and how do these differences affect an early childhood setting, either at home or in kindergarten, where children of various ages are present? Helle Heckmann will continue working with the questions arising from Friday's presentation and move into a discussion of ways in which adults can fully support the development of the children of various ages. This will include inner practices and meditations for individuals and groups caring for children. The conference will conclude with a presentation on how the celebrations of the festivals weave into the rhythmical life of the children, not as a series of separate events but as a cyclical progression.

We especially encourage anyone working with children ages 0-9 such as parents, teachers, home-based caregivers, and homeschooling parents to participate in this very unique and engaging conference. Helle will be showing segments of her latest DVDs, *The Small Child* and *Celebrating Festivals with Children*.

Presenters

Helle Heckmann, Keynote Speaker

Helle Heckmann is a certified early childhood teacher and holds a B.S. in Geography. She is a member of the Danish Steiner/Waldorf Kindergarten Association and serves on the board of the International Early Childhood Association. She has traveled and taught throughout the Americas, Canada and Europe for the past 18 years. Helle started Nøkken, a kindergarten of mixed-age children 1 year to 7 years old.

Martha Buche has 23 years of experience working with young children and their parents in various settings in Europe, Asia and the United States. She conducts parent/child classes at Three River's Waldorf School.

Heidi Burke is a trained early childhood educator with 17 years of experience in Public and Waldorf education. She has been a co-facilitator of the parent/toddler program and as a kindergarten teacher at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School.

Laura Cassidy has 20 years of experience with young children. She is a Waldorf Early Childhood Remedial Educator and kindergarten teacher at Prairie Hill Waldorf School.

Anette Conlon is the Eurythmy teacher and curative Eurythmist at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School.

Roberta Ducharme is a Waldorf kindergarten teacher from Viroqua, and founder of Little Friends, a farm-based child care center inspired by Nøkken.

Martha Flores is a trained Waldorf kindergarten teacher from Tamarack Waldorf School in Milwaukee. She holds a B.A. in early childhood education.

Paula Freckmann has been a kindergarten teacher at Tamarack Waldorf School for four years. She holds a certificate in the Lifeways early childhood training.

Anne-Marie Fryer is a Waldorf kindergarten and class teacher at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School. She is the author of *Cooking for the Love of the World* and WECAN regional representative.

Sarah Kamin is a Eurythmist and the director of a home-based preschool.

Accommodations

Heritage Inn B&B (discount rate), 888.4HerlInn

Vernon Inn, 800.800.8000

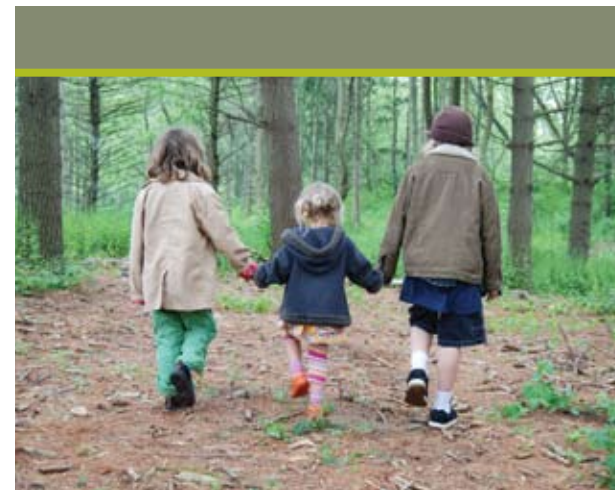
Midway Motel, 608.637.2929

Hickory Hill Hotel, 608.637.3104

Old Towne Motel (Westby), 608.605.0276

Central Express Inn (Westby), 608.634.2950

Westby House B&B, 608.634.4112



The Child in the Care of the Authentic Adult

Midwest Early Childhood Conference
October 23–25, 2009

Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School
431 E. Court Street, Viroqua, Wisconsin

“Every single day I am standing in the garden greeting the children—they can count on that! The children look me in the eyes and what they see is, ‘There is an adult who knows what she is doing, who is real and authentic.’ That is what the children of today need more than ever.”

—Helle Heckman



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