



**TRANSITIONS IN CHILDHOOD FROM BIRTH TO 14 YEARS:
SIGNIFICANCE, CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES
Tasks for Educators and Teachers**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE GOETHEANUM, DORNACH, SWITZERLAND
MARCH 30th TO APRIL 3rd 2015

The human being remains incomplete until long after birth. Initially completely helpless and dependent it gradually adapts to its environment and gains its own autonomy. However, this is not a linear process - a number of crises, transitions occur, introducing new developmental steps, in which the child is especially vulnerable: at the physical birth, with the 3-, 6-, 9- and 12-year old child adults have a special role. Education is the art of midwifery, raising the question to educators, how they can accompany the various subsequent "births" in a way that allows waiting, acceleration, protection and encouragement, so that one developmental step prepares the next, in order for the developing human being to become able to take development into their own hands. Health, joy of life, learning abilities – through watchful and loving accompaniment of these "nodal points" and transitions, the adult can provide the child with an invaluable basis for later life.

From birth to age 14 years the child is, in addition to its parents, accompanied by a number of close people and specialists, who often do not know each other: midwives, child minders, nursery teachers, kindergarten teachers, after-school Carers, teachers, therapists, doctors...This conference is an attempt to look at a wider phase of childhood

with all these professional together. Do we as educators know the consequences of our daily practice? Do we as school teachers know the origin of the forces with which the child learns? Can we gradually learn to better assist the child by perceiving the amazing metamorphoses which the child undergoes? Aspects of pedagogy, medicine, nutrition and social sciences will be addressed. The morning lectures will present interdisciplinary themes across the ages. The workshops, podium discussions, discussion forums and research contributions will on the one hand provide an opportunity to deepen age- and profession-specific topics. On the other hand they will address specific themes which concern everyone: sleep, nutrition, health & illness, collaboration between institutions, child observation, kindergarten and school as living space, adult social skills, health of the children etc.

Please reserve the conference dates now.

In the coming year we will send you suggestions for how you can help to prepare the content of the conference in your own work context.

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