

Wilma Ellersiek translator course report / Summer 2019

During the period of 25th to 31st July, I was honored to be part of hand-gesture seminar in Stuttgart. I was a bit aware of the games from the already published books, although I did not have the whole picture of this art yet.

Coming from a country where Waldorf school is considered a privilege to have and where it requires big courage to cherish what Steiner gave us, I was so amazed about all those seven days I spent in Stuttgart and can say that it really developed me personally and professionally.

Seminar itself was like nothing else a person can experience in homeland, it literally absorbed all my consciousness for 24 hours, I felt like I'm more productive there than I can usually be during whole year and I was so deeply indrawn in the learning processes.

I learned that in gesture games we can bring our children worldly wisdom and that a game is like an invitation into something beautiful that we can experience together. Ellersiek games embrace everything that child should be given in early years, including healing and social aspect.

Studying the Ellersiek games and the anthroposophical background of them is long-life process. Step one is taken together with the lecturers, but the following steps must be taken by the student's self-improvement work at home.

Dr. Weidenfeld and Krohmer helped us to build the pillars and now it is my responsibility to work on my speech technique, breathing, body-control, level of glance and attention to the gestures. I have already translated several games into Slovak language, but translation is long process because it needs to settle down, and first versions need to grow into second versions and then into those that taste for children like the mother's milk. I can say that I have built the Doric column and in the future, I wish to build it into the Corinthian.

However, the games require continuous practice and discipline, the same importance is attached to the theoretical knowledge. I can have the right strength in my voice, but I would be even a better teacher and more authentically if I really had the whole idea how our speech can be like a massage for the child. We can be playing on the hand of a child, but how wonderful would it be if we knew how the points on hand relate to inner organs and that every finger is special.

Wilma Ellersiek generously copied how the nature works, without romantic decorations, she made the animals really live in her games just like they live on Earth, she copied the Moon in its real phases and made it clear where is the Earth, where is the sky and where is human in-between.

Ellersiek games give children chance to be loud, to be silent, to meet their own strength and at the same time to be gentle. They are tools to carry child through the fears.

Starting from this semester I've become a member of organizational team of Slovak National Waldorf Teacher Seminar for Pre-school Educators and I am proud to be able to spread what I had chance to learn in Stuttgart into our small collegium.

Adults and governmental educators are like in the deep sleep and I feel that discovering the beauty of rhythmic pedagogy let them to clean the dust of adulthood and discover what children really need.

I am deeply thankful to INSEL and IASWECE for this opportunity and look forward to the future cooperation with our Slovak community.

Alexandra Dragunova.