

**"Learning to Better Understand Today's Children So That They Can Take Their Lives in Hand"**  
**Report on a Training Weekend in Ukraine**  
Alla Kosak, Tatiana Sabrodina

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Those of you outside Ukraine may recognize some of these city names from newspapers reports: Kiev, Krivoj Rog, Dnipropetrowsk, Odessa, Nikolaev, Kramatorsk, Saporoshje, Winniza, Lugansk. However, the newspapers don't mention that in each of these cities there are human beings who, despite material and financial difficulties, have decided to become Waldorf early childhood educators or teachers.

Students from these cities met from March 22 to 28 in Krovoj Rog for a deepening course that is part of the third year of their training.

A main theme for the week was the observation of development in the small child as a basis for a deepened understanding of biography. Through working with the Study of Man, doing observation exercises, and viewing children's drawings, the participants were given opportunities for their future careers to better understand today's children

Other themes included the meaning of religious education in the various phases of development, rhythm in the life of the child, singing, painting, and handwork.



Thanks to the Ukrainian teaching faculty team (Anatolij Rusinov – founder of the first Waldorf kindergarten group in Kiev, and organizer and teacher at the Seminar for Waldorf Early Childhood Education in Kiev; Alla Kosak, organizer of the Seminar in Krivoj Rog, Tatiana Sabrodina, music teacher, finance director and organizer of the Seminar in Odessa; Svetlana Semenova, felting master; Tatiana Volkova and others), thanks to Monika Würzinger, visiting lecturer from Dortmund, Germany, and thanks to the active involvement of the students, a very intensive work took place in a very warm and friendly atmosphere.

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