

## **School and kindergarten doctors: job description**

Promoting the physical and mental health of children and adolescents is a matter of growing importance in modern society. Waldorf Education aims to support children and adolescents in ways that enable them to develop healthily and unfold their full potential. The Waldorf Curriculum therefore takes its cue from the child's physical and mental development.

In order to support teachers and educators in this salutogenic process, the concept of Waldorf Education envisages that the teachers' perception of the individual child is complemented by that of school doctors. The close cooperation of both professions allows for a deepened understanding of each child's or adolescent's individuality and development, from which appropriate educational and therapeutic measures can be derived. Given the increasing incidence of developmental differences and chronic disorders in children and adolescents, this concern is more relevant than ever.

It is essential to identify developmental disorders and learning differences in children early on so that the support required to overcome them can be provided as soon as possible. School and kindergarten doctors act as consultants to teachers and educators on questions regarding educational and therapeutic interventions. They are also in close contact with the parents.

The integration of targeted and therapeutic interventions is therefore intrinsic to the Waldorf concept. Teachers work with school and kindergarten doctors, therapists and other specialists in order to improve learning conditions. By cooperating, they aim to enable children to grow up healthily and to overcome or prevent hindrances to individual learning and development. Such cooperation is indispensable for an inclusive provision.

### *Professional requirements and areas of activity of school and kindergarten doctors:*

Knowledge of paediatric, adolescent and anthroposophic medicine is essential, particularly with a view to prevention and salutogenesis, as is the willingness to gain an understanding of the foundations of Waldorf Education.

Areas of activity include:

- Observing lessons and therapy sessions in kindergartens, daycare centres and schools
- Developmental screening in kindergarten and school, particularly for school readiness
- Providing information and further training for parents regarding the work of kindergarten and school doctors
- Advising teachers and parents
- Open surgery hours for pupils
- Taking part in teachers' meetings
- Organizing and providing training in First Aid
- Considering the therapeutic requirements of chronically ill children
- Possibly teaching First Aid, relationship and sex education, etc.
- Cooperation on addiction prevention and child welfare
- Participating in crisis interventions

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German working group of school and kindergarten doctors

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