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When the Classroom Door Opens – Child Development and Its Essential Milestones

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As subject teachers, we journey through the grades, encountering students at distinct stages of development. What is each class truly asking of us? To meet them with authenticity and depth, we are called to undergo our own inner transformation before stepping into their world. In this 75-minute session, we will explore the archetypal qualities of each grade, examine the unique developmental needs of students, and consider how to set meaningful goals for nurturing their souls through our subject teaching.

Chiaki Uchiyama was born and raised in Yokohama, Japan. Her journey into anthroposophy began in 1996 following the death of her infant son. In 1997, she moved to the United States and began teaching Japanese at Cedarwood Waldorf School, where she served for 21 years before becoming Pedagogical Director in 2018. In 2022, she joined the Portland Waldorf School as Pedagogical Director and is now in her third year serving as School Director.

Since 2010, Chiaki has led annual Waldorf language teacher conferences for Japanese educators and has facilitated a wide range of pedagogical workshops. Her presentations include contributions to AWSNA, WECAN, the Center for Anthroposophy, the NAIS People of Color Conference, and the NAIS Continental Conference.

Chiaki holds an Ed.D. in Waldorf Education from Antioch University. Her doctoral research explored diversity, equity, and inclusion through the lens of anthroposophy. Her dissertation, titled *Heart-Thinking Leadership*, examines a consciousness orientation that transcends binary thinking and fosters unity as an organic whole.

