Developing Powerful Young Minds

The Preschools & Elementary Classrooms in Pistoia & Reggio Emilia, Italy

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Out of the Ruins of WWII: An Exemplary School is Born
Reggio Emilia, Italy
International Attention

1980 Reggio Emilia exhibit, “The Hundred Languages of Children” opened

1994 Reggio Children and Friends of Reggio Children

Dec. 2, 1991
Significant Elements

- Children are Protagonists in Their Learning
- Children & Teachers are Co-constructors of Knowledge
- Pedagogy of Listening
- Spiral of observation, listening, reflecting on data, documentation, revising for future work
- Documentation by the teacher communicates students’ understandings.
- Thoughtful aesthetic design in all environments
Creating Community

- Classrooms open to a center piazza, kitchens are open to view, and access to the surrounding community is assured through wall-size windows, courtyards, and doors to the outside in each classroom.

- In each classroom there are studio spaces in the form of a large, centrally located atelier and a smaller mini-atelier, and clearly designated spaces for large- and small-group activities.
Reggio’s Third Teacher: The Environment

- Entries capture the attention of both children and adults through the use of mirrors (on the walls, floors, and ceilings), photographs, and children's work accompanied by transcriptions of their discussions.

- These same features characterize classroom interiors, where displays of project work are interspersed with arrays of found objects and classroom materials. In each case, the environment informs and engages the viewer. There is always thoughtful placement of carefully chosen items.
REMIDA: Recycling Center
The Poppy Experience:
Art as Expression of Experience
Children’s Work
The Story of the Theater Curtain
The Professional Artist’s Curtain
“Transformation”
La Villetta Preschool: The Story of the Lions
The Lions: Night & Day
Children’s Work
Children’s Work
The Amusement Park for Birds
From Planning to Implementation
Children’s Work Comes to Life
Friends & Homes for the Birds
The Amusement Park Thrives
La Villetta Preschool
Cultural and Content Preparation

1. Aspects of daily life.
2. Significant historical events.
3. Transportation, phone, banking.
4. Expected physical & cognitive demands.
5. Daily schedule
6. Professional expectations
7. Course expectations, timelines.
WVU Group
Pistoia, Italy
Dinner Experience
Venice
Pistoia Meeting Center
Collaborating With Italian Educators
Collaborating With U.S. Students & Professors in Italy
Walkway to Malaguzzi Center
Parma Puppetry Museum
Participants’ Voices

“The study tour provided me with a new way of thinking and approaching early childhood education. I will think of these young learners as “children full of competency, having rights and desires for dialogue and interactions.”
“The Reggio study tour dramatically influenced my professional thinking in several respects. I brought back a wealth of information from the experience that I plan to incorporate in my future teaching.”

“I feel privileged to have gotten the opportunity to attend it. This organization’s philosophy, “to seek to promote the rights, resources, and potential of all children” is so powerful and it is very evident that Reggio Children is succeeding in its mission.”
Thank you for your interest!

Questions?
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