

The Image of the Child

“It’s necessary that we believe that the child is very intelligent, that the child is strong and beautiful and has very ambitious desires and requests. This is the image of the child that we need to hold. ”

Loris Malaguzzi



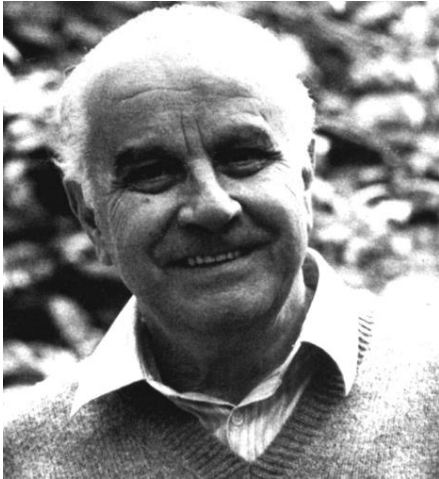
What is the Reggio Emilia Approach to Education?

Reggio Emilia is a City in Italy



- Reggio Emilia is a modern, dynamic city with a population of about 150,000 people in northern Italy that combines **economic prosperity with social and ecological responsibility**.
- Reggio also hosts 33 public schools for children from 6 months to 6 years funded by the city for its citizens. Up to **17% of the city's budget is allocated to the schools**.
- Reggio is also a very **unique city with many young children and their families**, produced by a very particular historical, cultural and political context.
- The **pedagogical experience in Reggio was started after War World II by Loris Malaguzzi**.

Loris Malaguzzi



It's necessary that we believe that the child is very intelligent, that the child is strong and beautiful and has very ambitious desires and requests. This is the image of the child that we need to hold. We don't need that as an image of children. Instead of always giving children protection, we need to give them the recognition of their rights and of their strengths.

Loris Malaguzzi

Loris Malaguzzi was the founder of Reggio Emilia's educational philosophy and together with the Comune and many local administrators he participated in the birth and **building of Reggio Emilia's network of public preschools** (3-6) and infant-toddler centers (0-3).

Malaguzzi graduated in **Pedagogy** and began his career as a primary school teacher in 1946. In 1950, he qualified as an **educational psychologist** and founded Reggio Emilia's municipal **Psycho-Pedagogical Medical Center** where he worked for more than twenty years.

The Hundred Languages



*The child
is made of one hundred.
The child has
a hundred languages
a hundred hands
a hundred thoughts
a hundred ways of thinking
of playing, of speaking.
A hundred always a hundred
ways of listening
of marveling, of loving
a hundred joys
for singing and understanding
a hundred worlds
to discover
a hundred worlds
to invent
a hundred worlds
to dream.*



Pedagogy of Relationships

The child is a **communicator**:
interpreter and negotiator

1) Becoming aware of their own ideas

Children realize that they are owners of ideas. Until this realization, they used them without knowing they were theirs.

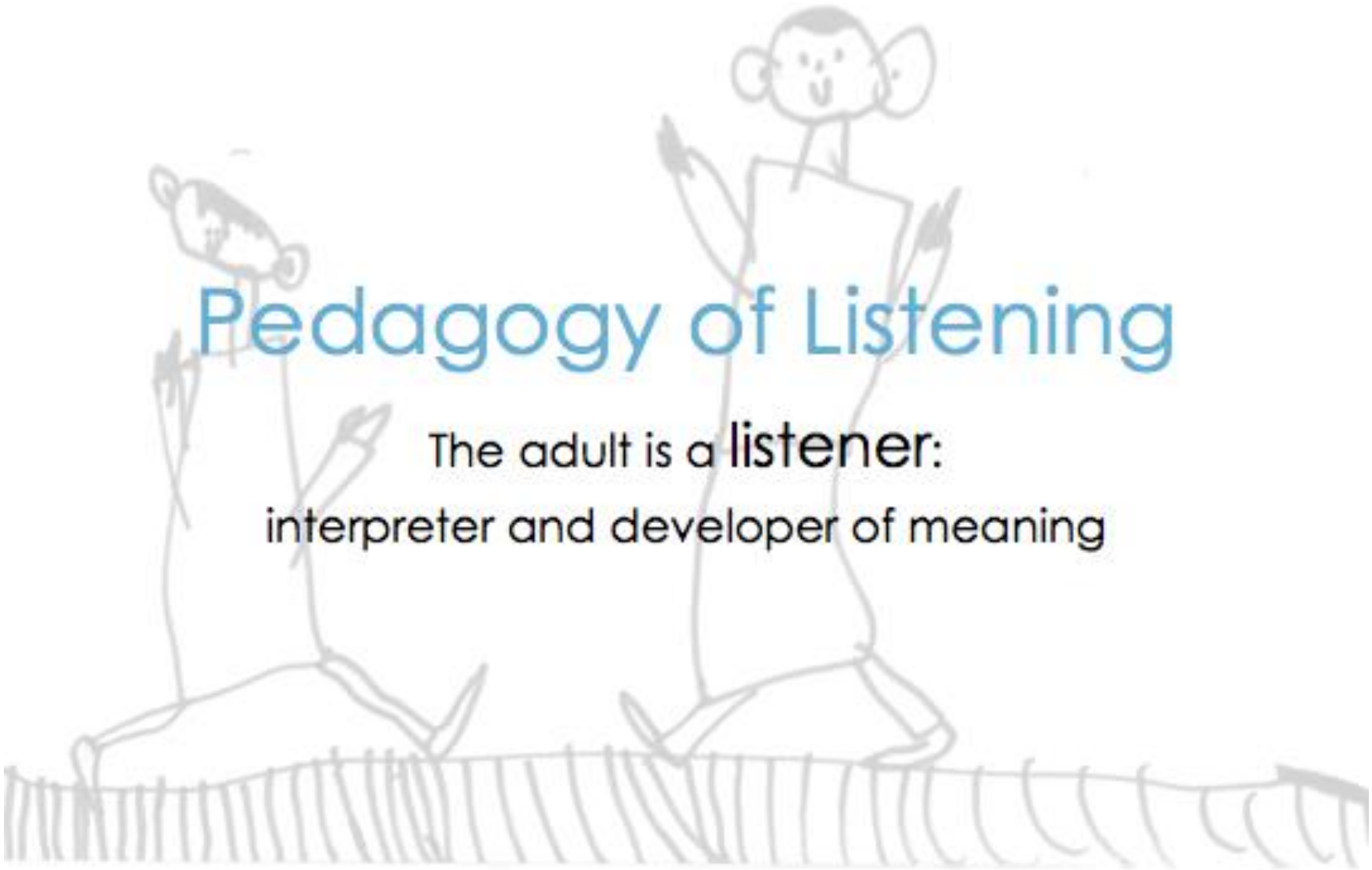
2) Becoming aware of others' ideas

Children discover that others too are owners of ideas.

3) Repositioning one's presence

Through relationships with others, children find out limits and potential.

Communication gives competency and opportunity for transformation



Pedagogy of Listening

The adult is a **listener**:
interpreter and developer of meaning

1) Present and non judgmental listening

Adults welcome children's ideas, emotions and dynamics with an open mind and heart.

2) Creation of connections

Adults give meaning to ideas, emotions and dynamics, being sensitive to the patterns that connect.

3) Elaboration of connections

Adults develop meaning to create new understandings.

The act of listening is a journey and a launching pad

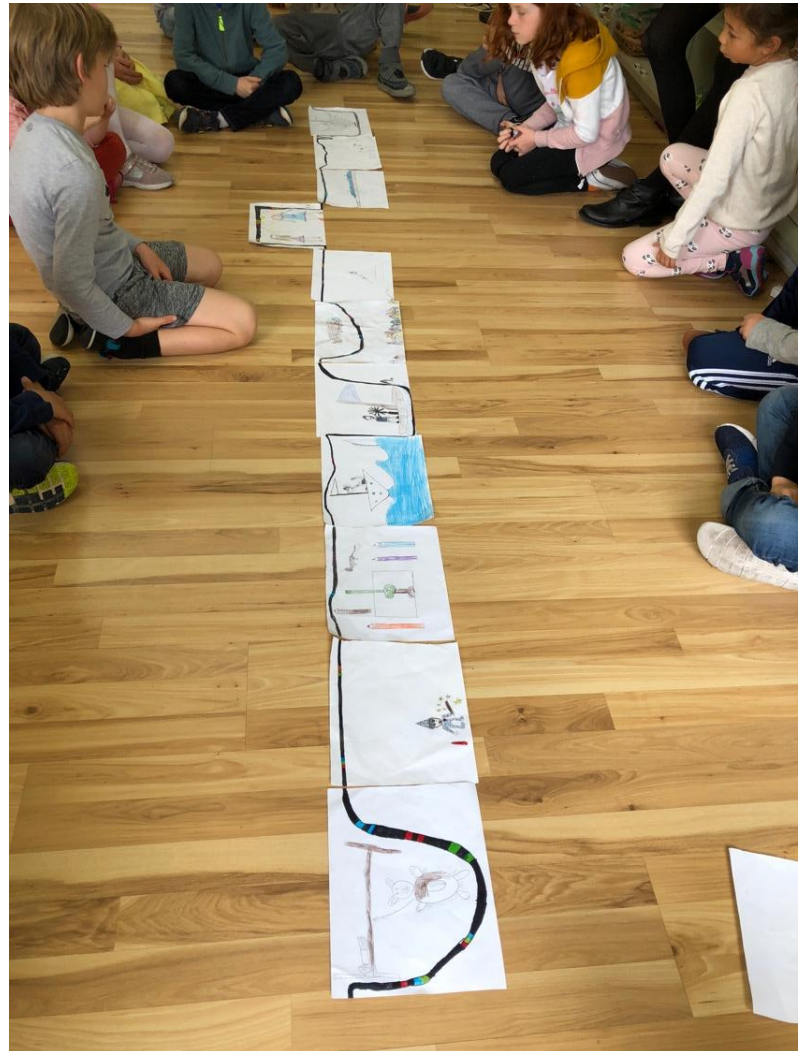
The Teacher as Researcher

Professionals of Wonder



Intentionality - Exploring Concepts - Telling the story of the Learning

Professionals of Wonder



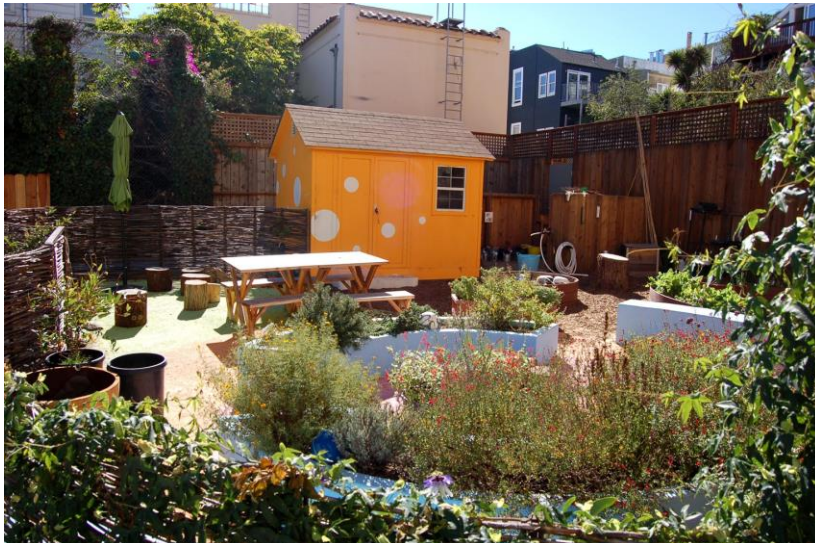
Intentionality - Exploring Concepts - Telling the story of the Learning

The Environment as the Third Teacher

The Beauty of the Environment



La Scuola emphasizes color and joy, making every element of our school environment a place of light, beauty, and love — from preschool on up. Here, the environment is part of what inspires La Scuola students to feel and learn using all of their senses.





Multi-sensory Learning Experience

The Role of the Ateliers



The Ateliers are a place intentionally set up for supporting the child's active construction of knowledge through a creative relationship with the world.

Roberta Pucci, Atelierista.



Yearly Art Exhibit

Yearly PreK-8 Final Exhibit



Documentazione Documentation



Documentation

Making the Learning Visible



Making the learning visible: In our documentation we collect our inquiries, children's hypothesis and discoveries, the questions we ask them and the questions that emerge during the process.

Keeping track of the process: Collecting material everyday, we can see how the inquiries develop, how they develop and get richer.

Weekly and Daily updates for parents: PreK: Google Sites and Toddle Live Documentation, K-8: Toddle Live Documentation and documentation on the walls



Design Project: Building a Garden



Mission Campus Garden

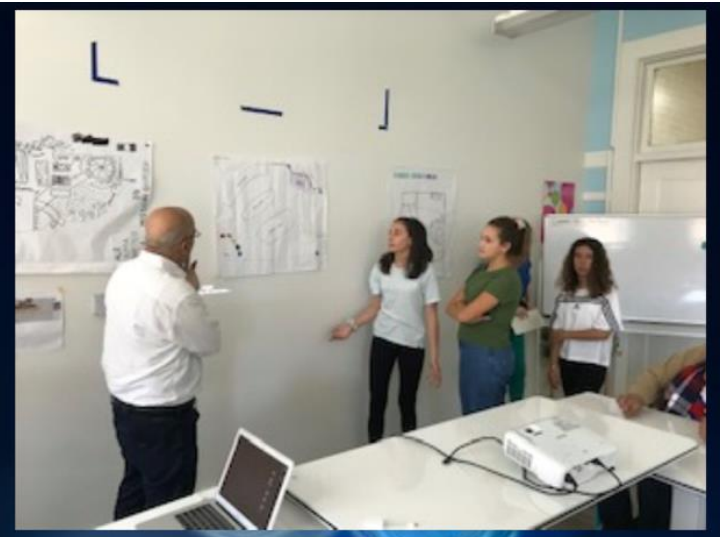
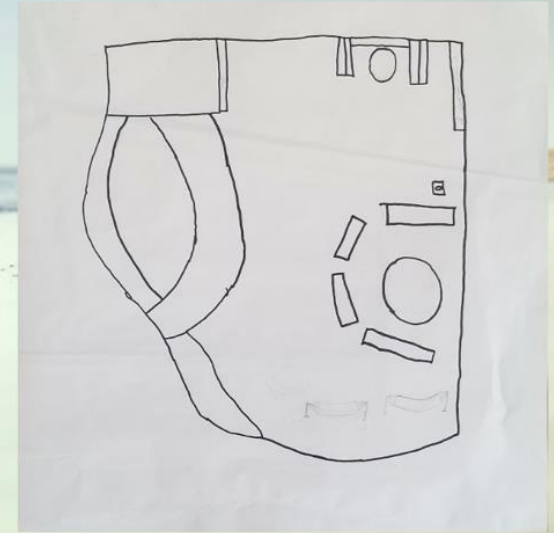
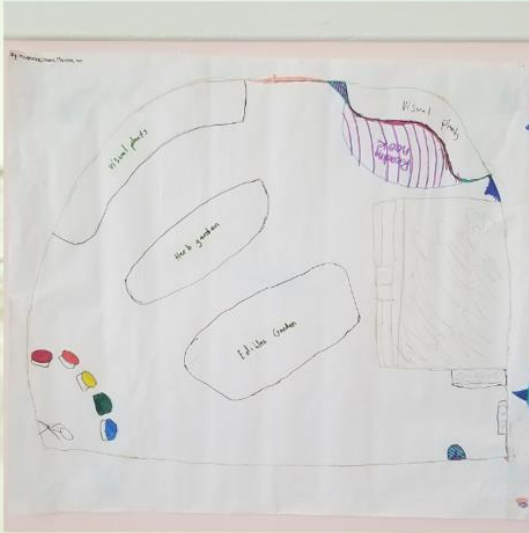


IMAGINE



Being the first to arrive on the new campus, we had the opportunity to create the garden for the whole school using our imagination and our past experience. To introduce this project, we had a beautiful assembly in the garden with the Environmental Studies educator and we started to discover the materials available to us.

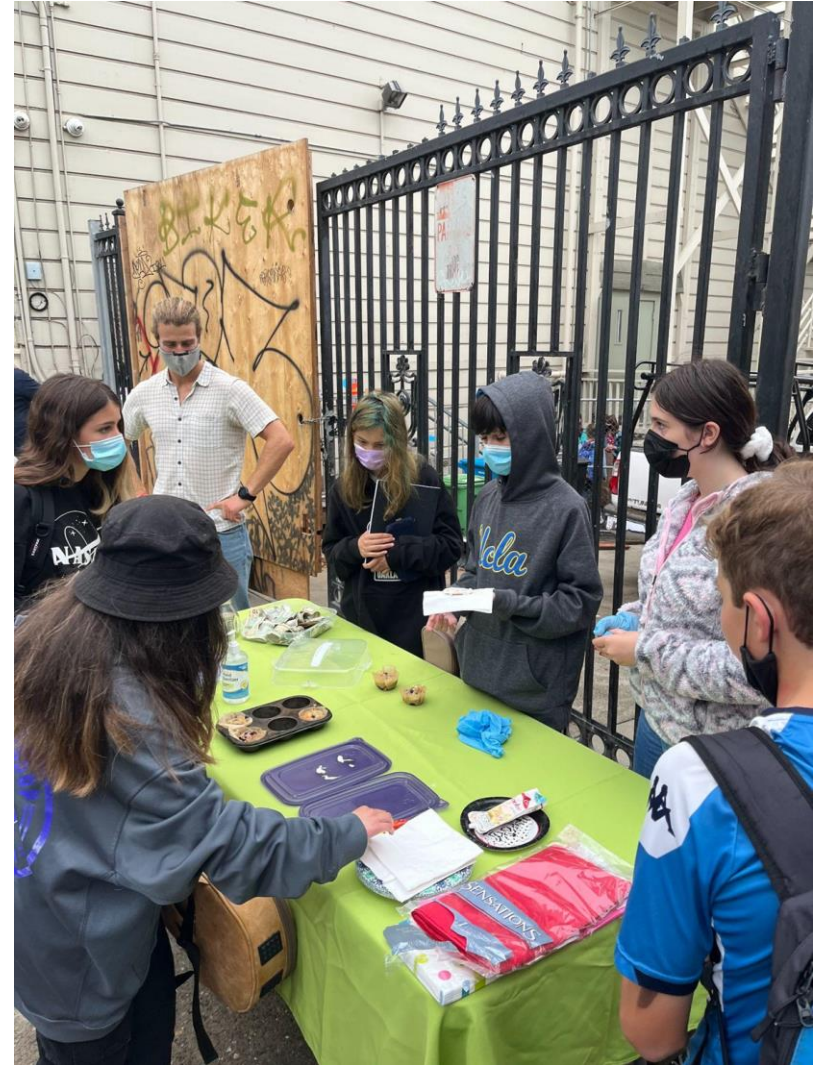
PLAN AND PERSPECTIVE





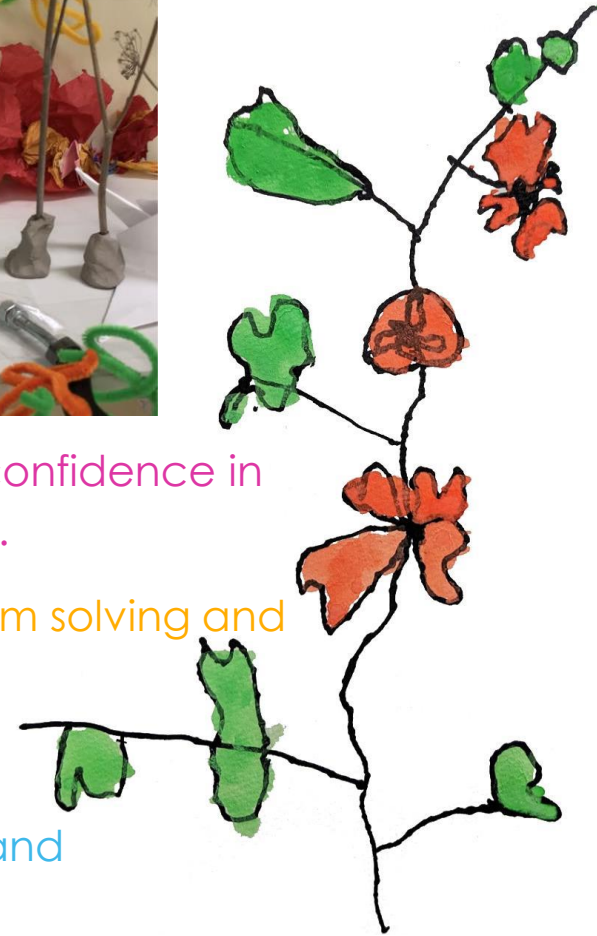
Atelier of Democracy & Culture

Atelier of Democracy & Culture



Benefits of a Reggio Emilia Education?

Benefits



- Students' questions are taken seriously, thereby building confidence in their own ability as independent learners and researchers.
- Inquiry-based learning promotes creative thinking, problem solving and teamwork.
- Children able to express themselves in different ways.
- Focus on the whole student: physical, intellectual, social and emotional.
- Our graduates are prepared to thrive in a process-based, collaborative world. They are independent thinkers who communicate effectively and are comfortable finding their own way.

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