

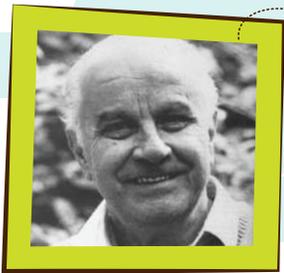
# THE Reggio Emilia APPROACH



## Origin

**BIRTHPLACE:** Lella Gandini describes Reggio Emilia as...

“a small city in Northern Italy that shines with a bright light for what it has accomplished and what it stands for in the field of education.”



**FOUNDERS:** This approach to education was founded by a group of inspired parents who desired an educational system where their children could flourish. Led by Loris Malaguzzi, an educator, psychologist, and philosopher after WWII, this philosophy views children as confident, responsible, independent, creative and curious beings.

## key values

**IMAGE OF CHILD:** Reggio Emilia inspired schools believes in the rights and opinions of each child. A child is a competent, capable and natural researcher who has the desire for knowledge and life and is always ready for challenges.



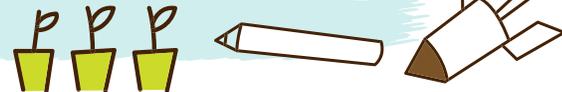
**PARENT INVOLVEMENT:** We value parents as participants in their child's learning process. Their involvement in the school gives their children a sense of security and is deeply appreciated. This lends itself to having parents be a role model for their children, and for them to have an incentive for their own learning.

**ROLE OF THE TEACHER:** The teacher plays a critical role by being the child's partner and recognizing many learning possibilities. In order to further the learning process, teachers listen, observe, inquire, document, work together and reflect upon the experiences of children.

**COMMUNITY AND GROUP WORK:** It is essential that we make visible the fact that each child knows and understands that we are all different and can co-exists peacefully. We have different ways of thinking, a fact we embrace. By respecting others processes and opinions we can get along as a community.



**ENVIRONMENTS AND MATERIALS:** The spaces of the schools are both thoughtful and inviting. The Reggio Emilia Philosophy believes that the **environment in which your child explores is the third teacher.** Materials in the classroom inspire children to think outside the box.

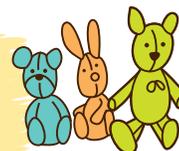


## learning process

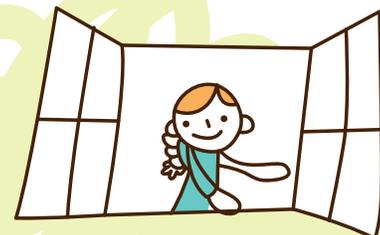
**CHILDREN AS RESEARCHERS:** Children are constantly exploring the world around them. This philosophy offers the children endless possibilities and opportunities to be in charge and to be the protagonist of their own learning. It is of utmost importance that teachers and children alike invest in researching and collaborating together in order to be a part of each other's learning process. The child wants the teacher to see the process of their learning while they put the effort to accomplish the task, rather than the product. We encourage them to think deeper and ask questions as they research different theories.



*We encourage them to think deeper and ask questions as they research different theories.*



**CATERING TO AND CHALLENGING EACH CHILD'S PROCESS:** Teachers observe the children, allowing them to have a better understanding of the child as a whole. Through these observations, teachers are able to cater to each child's individual learning process.



## atelier



**A SPACE THAT ILLUMINATES:** This art studio is an extension of the classroom. It is a room that belongs to the whole school and its materials are carefully thought out to engage and cultivate any child's interest.

**ATELIERISTA:** This role is coveted within this philosophy because the atelierista has a ludic approach to working with children. While they continue to motivate and engage children to explore the materials and observe each child's process, it is important for them to see how each child makes a connection with the different languages of expression such as dance, photography, movement, theater and more...



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