

# Italy Visit – Reggio Emilia Approach

## What we did:

### Day 1 – Introductions

Met the people on the course and discussed the arrangements.

**Day 2** – Attended the Loris Malaguzzi center and had a lecture with a Reggio Professional. Learnt about the approach and how the community embraces the approach as a whole. Explored the atelier spaces and observed sets ups. Later on we explored Reggio Emilia's town.

**Day 3** – Attended a school in Reggio that follows the approach (AMAZING!). Had the school set up explained and then we spent 2 hours walking around observing the teachers and the children. One room started from 12 months to 2 years old. Other rooms were 3 years old – 5 years old. Discussions of the use of outdoors was interesting as Italy never used to encourage the outdoors as this would cause illnesses. Now this is the opposite since COVID. We had a Q+A with the teachers afterwards. Then we had a discussion about the whole trip and what was learnt. In the evening we had a task to look around Bologna with different people.

## Things to implement:

- Use smaller lights such as lamps to support calming environment
- Add greenery around the classroom. Helps curiosity and calmness. – Give a child a job of plant carer.
- Give children a range of materials.
- Allow children to develop own creativity – Link to clay volcanoes next term.
- Develop Atelier spaces.
- Digital landscapes.
- Use camera microscopes in lessons to see finer details.
- Strip back displays. Make sure of ceiling and hang displays down.
- Shelves?

## Take aways:

- ALN children referred to as 'Special Rights'. Empowers the child!
- Atelier – place where learning happens. Not often a fixed place.
- Children are researchers and give the teachers ideas on what to set up. A planning meeting is done at the start of the day with the children.
- Teachers document observations. Looking and observing is very different.
- Continuously ask why.
- Lots links to previous theorist such as Vygotsky ZPD, Dewey.
- It is a whole community approach.
- Not everything needs to be simplified. This will set high expectations and support language development.
- A very beautiful visit with a great plan and wonderful people. Attending with your TA seems better as it is easier to implement, and both gain the same vision.





### *Mrs Spalvieri's comments:*

- Attending with another member of staff in your planning team, makes implementing easier as you can both see the vision.
- It was useful to meet others from different schools to share ideas and learn from their environments and experiences.
- Going into the Reggio approach school was very insightful and inspiring! I want help implement adding nature to the classroom, observing rather than 'looking' and children having more input on displays in our classroom.
- The whole experience of seeing a different culture has been refreshing and made me feel grateful of the opportunity and grateful of the school we have.