

MICRONIDO “il mulino a vento” – green school

WINDMILL-GREEN SCHOOL

THE BIRTH

Il “Mulino a vento” is a cultural association born in 2003 in the old residence in Via Tedeschi 7, to answer some important demands regarding children from six months to three years aged, who are accompanied, with their families, during their growth by means of an educative space, which has been thought and organized for them.

MISSION AND THEORETIC PRESUPPOSITIONS

The first three years are fundamental for the construction of the child’s identity, for the development of the language and the first social relations as well as movement and knowledge ability. Our association wants to offer a space made to measure, a place where the children’s development is encouraged by means of relationship with educators where it is possible to enter in contact with children of the same age with amusing activities of play, manipulation, disguise, graphic signs...

Researches about the child’ development during the first years of life have pointed out as, since the first days, the child is an active partner while playing with and thanks to this image the child, by means of exchanges planned in a contest made by routines, temporal subdivisions, rules, roles and objects obtains a prominent roles within the program that is made for him or her.

NON VIOLENT COMMUNICATION

The peculiarity of our association is directed to research and training in pedagogic field. Our theoretic direction relies upon principles of non violent communication, education to peace, democratic education that is based on reciprocal respect, on the listening of needs and empathy. We would like to pass our values through collaboration and empathy behaviours, not by the use of authority and punishments.

“IL MULINO A VENTO” BECOMES GREEN SCHOOL

On September 2005 the “micronido” changed places and moved to via dei Vivarini 13, Pd, in a modern structure, that has been built according to the new anti-seismic regulations, the light is 100% l.e.d., renovation has been made with materials the most compatible with the ambient.

THE NAME

For every change there is a thought leading the turning, the transformation and, in our case, the name represents the direction we would like to follow:

- **GREEN:** because we go nearer to nature and recycling with the garden, the social vegetable garden cultivated by parents of the districts, eco-friendly project of “green-eating” and our model of democratic and non violent education that is ecologic without doubt!
- **SCHOOL:** because we are studying ways of early linguistic learning, by increasing the exposition to different languages since childhood through listening, playing and music. Learning is fun!

STAFF

The association makes use of the most qualified persons who work as a team:

- A psychologist, Alessia Pitrelli, liable for the Center, the continuous training and supervisor of individual or assembled courses
- A co-operator, Lucia Cocchi, graduated in psychology of developmental age, to whom one may address for the daily activities
- Teachers with teaching diploma, selected for their pedagogical training, who will follow your children's advancements constantly
- An english teacher provided with a specific diploma in "HocusandLotus®" format.

And other teachers

- Teacher of English
- Teacher of musical propaedeutica (Ritmia method)

There is a teacher for every 6 children younger than 12 months and one for every 8 children from 12 to 36 months old as the law requires.

According to the inscriptions there may be a group of 6 sucklings (un-weaned) with a teacher and a half-weaned and weaned group of 16 with two teachers to whom it is possible to speak.

The centre can hold 23 children (6 mq for each child as law requires).

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

Organization cart

Flexibility: several time tables are offered to meet with different needs due to the parents' job. Different ways of admittance are granted:

The welcome is from 7.45 to 9.30 (it is possible to enter beforehand on request at 7.15)

- until 11.30: admission within 9.30 and exit at 11.30 without meal
- partial time: admission within 9.30 and exit from 12.30 to 13.15
- full time: admission within 9.30 and exit from 15.30 to 16.15
- extended time: admission within 9.30 and exit from 17.30 to 18.00
- three days: the shortest frequency for 3 days a week if ad hoc rates are agreed

A STANDARD DAY

The Centre is open from Monday to Friday, from 7.45. It is possible, as previously noted to entre beforehand at 7.15. The children are requested to enter within and not beyond 9.30 to permit, afterwards the development of the morning activities.

- 7.45-9.30 welcome, bye bye, kisses to mummy and daddy and free play
- 9.30-10.00 in the bathroom (potty and wash hands) then a snack
- 10.00-11.00 different activities. The children are divided in groups to develop the planned activities or and/or the routine ones
- 11.00-11.30 linen cloths are changed and hands are washed again
- 11.30-12.30 food (din-dins)!!!
- 12.30-13.15 children say bye bye to friends going away and get ready for beddy-bye

- 13.00-15.00 rest
- 15.00-15.30 awaking, change of linen clothes and a snack
- 15.30-16.15 play games in English language
- 16.15-18.00 extended time with a teacher of English

LOCATION AND SPACES

The Centre is supplied with a welcome room for the children and their parents with coat-hangers, swaddling table, small armchairs, secretary table, show-window and posters for the communication between the families and the staff.

There are 4 WC, one of which is for the staff, the sinks and 3 WC are according to childhood standard. The kitchen, with a pantry, communicates within the space used to have meal, the classrooms are divided by modular structures according to the children's needs.

There are different areas: space for gym, for role-playing, for hand activities, soft corner to listen to stories, soft places with a mirror for sucklings.

Outside the Centre is provided with a wide garden, a part of which is paved with anti-trauma, a part that consists of a vegetable garden and a place supplied with open air structure for children to play.

PLURALITY OF LANGUAGES

Our proposals follow a different project year by year, that is prepared by the whole staff. Every day, the children are divided in small homogeneous groups so that they may develop the different languages through which the children communicate during their growth, for example

- for the youngest children: educational path to develop sight, listening and perception...
- for toddlers: educational path to develop movement ability (to roll, to climb up, to jump, to slide...), handling (food handling, drawing, dough of salt ...), hearing perception (the use of simple music instruments, songs ...)
- for the oldest children: activities developing expression and communication ability (reading of images, listening to stories, enrichment of words...) orientation in the space (simple distances where they must move).

"GREEN SCHOOL" PROJECTS

Following our theoretical intentions, we have developed continuous projects which distinguish our training proposal

1. SOCIAL HOME-GROWN: a space of 35 mq run by people, who collaborate with the children of the "Mulino a vento", to transform our garden into a meeting place and "Km 0 production"
2. ENGLISH FOR EVERYBODY: the first step to work towards the language comprehension occurs while playing with sounds, words and gestures through imitation. We propose a second language immediately so that the sound discrimination in a time favourable to the apprehension of the language may result easier
3. INTRODUCTION TO MUSICAL LEARNING-Ritmìa: an innovative approach to musical education that has been thought for babyhood and that has been adopted for 10 years by "Il Mulino a vento"
4. LIBRARY AND READING INTRODUCTION: to approach children to reading means to widen languages, develop creativity and give an important instrument for their growing. We do so through many ways: narration, book borrowing and an Italian and English library.

FAMILY COLLABORATION

The families will be invited to know the aim of the Centre, the attention which is given to the educational aspects and the staff's peculiar training that has been deepening educational methods to peace and non violent communication for years.

During the year some meetings will occur with the families: one at the beginning of the year to explain the didactic project and the aim of the Centre, one in the middle of the year to control the results and one at the end of the year to show the real results.

Then the parents are invited to get an appointment for individual talks with their child's teachers to follow up their growth. If it is necessary, a personal welcome project, without preclusion regarding difference of gender, race and religion is granted to share a common strategy.

CONTINUTY WITH CHILDHOOD SCHOOLS

We collaborate with many childhood schools of the territory in order to accompany the children and their parents during the soft transition into the school world.

“SETTING-IN PHASE”: PERIOD IN WICH CHILDREN ARE GRADUALLY INTRODUCED TO THE NURSERY *how to become part of a new place*

The teacher, in the nursery school, covers the central role while building a bond different from the one the child feels towards parents and intimate persons. To get used to the surroundings represents either the child's first real experience of separation from the family or the family's one from the child. Therefore it is important to involve parents in the “setting-in phase” to the new situation. It is also important for them to manage the separation. The period of inclusion lasts almost two weeks.

EQUIPMENT

- 2 complete changes (underwear, overalls and socks)
- 2 non-slip socks or slippers
- 2 bibs (with name)
- 2 towels (with name)
- bed sheet and blanket (with name)
- pillow and pillowcase (if it is necessary)
- apron or old long sleeved shirt
- sack with name
- dummy/pacifier and feeding bottle (if it is necessary)

CATERING

The School makes use of an external catering (Teliporto), that offers a balanced menu, almost biologic, prepared by a dietician, different every day, rotating every 4 weeks (it is possible to download it from our site www.ilmulinoavento.org). it is also possible to ask for special diets due to intolerances, allergies, religions...

EXTERNAL COURSES

In the afternoons, after 16.15, on Saturday and on Sunday in the evening the “Mulino a vento ” offers meeting moments for pregnant women, new parents and course for children and parents.

EXTERNAL COLLABORATIONS

During the years the “Mulino” has activated many collaborations with other local associations which enrich the cultural knowledge necessary for its growth and transformation. We collaborate with:

- Association “Città delle mamme” with which we project “Cinemamme”, “mammeCaffè”, “mamme in mostra”...
- Association “Spazi-Ritmia” in Piacenza with which we promote musical propaedeutic since childhood following Ritmia method
- “I nidi-babysitter” a course for the training of competent baby sitters at parents’ disposal

WAITING LIST

If the demands should exceed the vacant posts, there will be a waiting list and it will follow the order of the registration demands.

We will look after bringing up to date the list (the parents may control) and we will contact, according to the list, the waiting children’s parents immediately. We assure that the children’s admission to the “Mulino a vento”, or the waiting list, will occur without prejudice about differences of gender, race and religion.

CLAIMS

At the entrance of the Centre there is a letter box, where it is possible, by introducing a letter anonymously, express claims or demands about the service. During the meetings agreed with the parents we grant answers to the possible claims and collaboration about improving the services. If one wants a written answer, it will be given within 30 days.

HOLLYDAYS CALENDAR 2018-19

The Centre is open from the 3th of September 2018 to the 28th of June 2019.

in July the “Summer Centre” may offer some weekly activities in accordance with the demands. The Centre will remain closed in agreement to the holidays of Municipal schools.

- From November 1 to November 2
- On December 8
- From December 24 to January 6
- Easter holidays
- On April 25
- On May