



Reggio Emilia Australia
INFORMATION EXCHANGE
re search for a new culture of childhood

Background of Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (REAIE)

REAIE was established in 1994 to provide an opportunity for dialogue within Australian contexts. This dialogue responds to the provocations from the educators in Reggio Emilia Italy, in relation to teaching and learning.

REAIE is a membership organisation and has been managed by a voluntary Committee since its inception. REAIE has grown and developed into the organisation it is today with strong values and a clear vision. The organisation strives to focus on researching for a new culture of childhood.

The organisation is an invited member of Reggio Children International Networks. This relationship is an integral part of the organisational structure and is key to developing the organisation further.

Relationship with Reggio Children and International Network

REAIE has a relationship with Reggio Children and a responsibility to the Reggio Children International Network. Two Committee members attend the International Network Meeting in Reggio Emilia each year.

The agreement that REAIE has with Reggio is as follows:

Reggio Children International Network Agreement, as provided by Reggio Children



REGGIO CHILDREN

Reggio Children has an identity born of interacting and building relationships at a local, national and international level in order to promote and defend the rights of children. All this has been part of its mission statement since Reggio Children establishment in year 1994:

“Reggio Children International Centre for the Defence and Promotion of the rights of all children.”

The concept of creating a Reggio Children International Network has been evolving over many years through both formal and informal encounters among those who desired to be part of it and for the promotion of quality in education of children across many countries of the world that showed interest in the Reggio Approach.

Foremost among these encounters have been travelling exhibitions of the Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools-Istituzione of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia from Reggio Emilia across the world, International Study Groups to Reggio Emilia, Consultancies, Research Projects, Conferences, Seminars, workshops and in February 2006, the development and opening of the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre.

Although not providing a model, the spread out of what it is called the Reggio Emilia Approach and the interconnectedness of its educational project is now known and recognised worldwide. The Reggio Children International Network represents the various reference points of Reggio Children in many countries of the world. The



International Network is founded on democracy, experiences, exchange, reciprocity, research projects, study and professional growth for communities and countries who wish to engage in the responsibility of participation and dialogue on quality in education. It can be described as a transnational project of the Reggio Emilia educational community, providing International dialogue and shared responsibility with the aim to support the identity and work of the Malaguzzi International Centre and Reggio Children.

Every country is unique with its own identity, and therefore represents different realities. The International Network has the responsibility to offer the opportunity of drawing on each other's theory, practice and richness, with the Reggio Emilia Approach (educational project of the infant toddler centres and preschools, Istituzione of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia) remaining central to the identity of the Reggio Children.

International Network

An interdependence is created both by sustaining, valuing and increasing our own understanding, as well as sharing the heritage of knowledge and culture experienced through the philosophy and research projects while defending the quality of the experience. Reggio Emilia, July 9, 2010.

Reggio Children asks Reggio Children International Network representatives to subscribe a "Certificate of participation in the Reggio Children International Network – year 2010 - 2011".

The "Certificate of participation" relates to specific values concerning the rights of children both in, to, and beyond early childhood education, where it creates a sense of belonging and enriches learning and living environments that can give visibility to these values

The Reggio Children International Network Agreement

The Agreement, while implying common shared responsibilities, obligations, rights, benefits, aspects of rigour – ethics – integrity- transparency - open collaboration, has as the main goal to underline that Reggio Children, Reggio Emilia, Italy has to be recognised as the unique, original point of reference to always depend on, always to refer to, always to be connected with.

Please, refer to:

"Indications Preschools and Infant-Toddler Centres of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia"

THE REGGIO CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AIMS:

- To defend the name and the quality of Reggio Children, of the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi and of the experience of the infant toddler centres and preschools – Istituzione of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia.
- To orient its energies in order not to emulate Reggio Emilia but to share the values of the Reggio Approach, which can sustain and become visible through research projects and collaboration.
- To promote the overarching concept for the development of pedagogical and educational work, with and for children, across the world which could provide a vehicle toward creating a new world-wide democratic citizenship. • To support internationally the identity and Mission Statement of Reggio Children and International Centre Loris Malaguzzi: "in the defence and promotion of the rights and potentials of all children."
- To sustain, value and disseminate the Reggio Children heritage of knowledge incorporating values, culture and politics, while maintaining integrity in interpretation and understanding, always respecting the identity of different contexts inspired by the Reggio Approach.



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- To endeavour the creation of a of childhood culture and early childhood pedagogy that understands national civic cultures and constructions, but is not bound by them.
 - To develop International research projects.
 - To create and raise up awareness, understanding and connection with educational projects across local, national and international boundaries.
 - To promote actions which reflect our values in philosophical, pedagogical, cultural, political and social/anthropological perspectives.
 - To support Reggio Children and the Reggio Approach in their current out-reach to the world and to search for alternative and new ways to share their work according to the differing rights and desires of particular countries.
 - To share concerns related to mis-interpretations of the Reggio Approach and in determining reasons why this is occurring also in seeking solutions to this challenge.

Within the process of creating a new organisation there are essential points ,aspects of our becoming a more structured Network, that we see as fundamental in being part of the Reggio Children International Network connected to the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi in Reggio Emilia, Italy.

The following map of work has to be considered a respectful way of collaborating together.

Reggio Children asks to be informed, every time, in terms of the use of Reggio Children/International Centre Loris Malaguzzi name and logo in order for Reggio Children to give approval and authorisation for its use.

WEBSITE

Reggio Children has the responsibility to visit all the different web sites of the International Networks in order to have an overview and an understanding of the style of communication. In December 2009 all the Networks received a collection of images, texts and pictures by Reggio Children in order to create in each Network web site a common “open window “on the Reggio Emilia experience.

MAP OF CONTEXTS

The Networks have the responsibility to share with Reggio Children an updated map of all the interest that the Reggio Approach creates in different parts of the world, especially in the part of the world connected to the International Networks.

PROMOTION OF ACTIVITIES:

Each Network has to share information on activities, initiatives organised by Reggio Children in Reggio Emilia and in the world, on their web site and with the members of the Network in their countries. Each Network has to share information on activities, initiatives organised by the Network itself in its context and in the world.

DISSEMINATION

All information Reggio Children shares with networks after a common agreement, should be then disseminated by the Network. The Networks are privileged channel through which this information will be shared. DISTRIBUTION OF REGGIO CHILDREN PUBLISHING



Reggio Children asks the Networks that are not doing it yet, to enter in touch with Reggio Children in order to create a collaboration that will support the Networks to begin the process of distributing Reggio Children publications, books and informative materials. Reggio Children is also open to find strategies to translate Reggio Children resources in other languages with the support of the Networks. Networks that are already distributing Reggio Children resources or have followed translations of books and publications, can be a support for all the other Networks, in case it is needed and asked.

ETHICAL SITUATIONS

Reggio Children has to be informed if in the different contexts, the Networks are aware of situations where certification of schools and certification of professional development initiatives using the name and logo of Reggio Children, International Centre Loris Malaguzzi and/or Reggio Approach are done. Certification of schools and professional development initiatives using the name and logo of Reggio Children, International Centre Loris Malaguzzi and/or Reggio Approach are not allowed.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Reggio Children has the responsibility to organise every year, Professional Development courses dedicated to International Networks that will take place in Reggio Emilia or in other parts of the world

MEMBERSHIP

Reggio Children has the responsibility to give priority to participate in privileged channel to be part of Research Projects generated in Reggio Emilia. Reggio Children gives priority to the Networks in the organisation of Study Groups to Reggio Emilia as well as making requests to have representatives from Reggio Emilia to participate in the initiatives and professional development in their countries.

The International Network representatives have the priority to be recognized by Reggio Children as members of the "international Network," and to have a privileged channel of communication and relationship with Reggio Children. But Reggio Children does not intend it as an exclusivity of relationship.

FUNDS:

The funds to support the Reggio Children International Network Organisation could come from:

- *Activities organized by the International Network*
- *Selling and distribution of Reggio Children publications, books and resources.*
- *Funds and grants at an international level Reggio Children welcomes ideas and encourages research from each Network.*
- *Annual fee from each Network of euro 3000,00 for the participation in the Reggio Children International Network .*

In trust

Amelia Gambetti and Emanuela Vercalli

Reggio Children International Network Coordinators