Exhibition of the infant-toddler centers and preschools of the Istituzione - Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy

North American Version

Opening Event

Dialogues for Quality in Education:
The School as a Place of Community, Collaboration, Research & Innovation

January 28-30, 2010

Speakers

• **Amelia Gambetti**, Educator, Reggio Children/International Centre Loris Malaguzzi, Responsible for Project Promotion and Development, International Network Coordinator, International Liaison for Consultancy to Schools

• **Simona Bonilauri**, Pedagogista, Istituzione Scuole e Nidi d'Infanzia, Municipality of Reggio Emilia

• **First Pres Teachers**

_times:_ Thursday 5:30-7:30pm, Friday 8:30am-8:30pm, Saturday 8:30am-4:00pm

_Fee:_ $380.00 (10% NAREA discount) includes opening celebration on Friday and continental breakfast & lunch on Friday & Saturday

_Mail:_ Registration form & check to: First Presbyterian Nursery School, 1248 Second Street, Santa Monica CA 90401

_For more information:_ please call 310-451-9259 or email reggioexhibitla@first-pres.net

Registration Form for January 28-30, 2010 “The School as a Place of Community, Collaboration, Research & Innovation”

Name __________________________________________ Title _______________________________

Organization/School ________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________ City, State, Zip __________________________

Telephone ____________________________ E-mail _______________________________________
Amelia Gambetti was an educator in the Reggio Emilia municipal preschools for 25 years. During those years, she shared her experience in seminars and workshops in Italy and abroad. Amelia also worked on the creation and consequent updates of The Hundred Languages of Children traveling exhibition of the municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia. Currently, she is part of the new exhibit, The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children Research Group. In fact, Amelia coordinates the North American version for Reggio Children. Beginning in 1992, Amelia has led several professional development initiatives in Italy and abroad (North Europe, North America, Asia). She is a pedagogical consultant to many schools, universities and colleges in North America, where she has visited more than 300 schools in almost 50 states in the United States. Currently, Amelia is Reggio Children/International Centre Loris Malaguzzi, Responsible for Project Promotion and Development, International Network Coordinator, International Liaison and Consulting to Schools. She is a member of the Managing Coordinating Group of Reggio Children/International Center, and a board member of the Istituzione Scuole e Nidi d’Infanzia of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia. Amelia is also a member of the World Forum Foundation on Early Care and Education and the editorial board of Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange, and is the Reggio Children Liaison for the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA). Many articles on Amelia Gambetti’s experiences with educators, parents and children in Reggio Emilia and in North America have been published in early childhood education books and newsletters in the United States.

Simona Bonilauri Beginning in 1979, Simona Bonilauri worked as a teacher for several years before becoming a pedagogista in the infant-toddler centers and preschools of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia. Simona, who is a psychologist, has an ongoing collaboration with Reggio Children, and is involved in research and professional development projects. In particular, she coordinated the research project, “The City: Theories, Images and Ideas,” which contributed to the creation of the book, Reggio Tutta: A Guide to the City by the Children. Simona is part of the Research Group of the new exhibit, The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children. She has also given her contribution as a speaker to many study groups, seminars, and national and international conferences in Reggio Emilia and in Europe, especially in northern Europe and the United Kingdom. Simona is one of the main curators of the historical exhibit, "One City, Many Children: Memoirs of a Present History," which is currently installed at the Loris Malaguzzi International Center in Reggio Emilia, Italy. She has coordinated research projects on reading and writing carried out in the municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools, some of which are represented in a section of the new exhibit titled, "The Enchantment of Writing." Simona is the author of articles published in journals in Italy and abroad. She is also involved in ongoing research based on teaching and learning as part of the evolution of the concept “progettazione” in the daily life of the schools.

First Presbyterian Nursery School is a community of children, teachers and parents committed to supporting each other in raising creative, thinking, loving children who know their immeasurable worth and are able to utilize their gifts and potential. We strive to create an environment that respects, encourages, motivates and supports each child's learning experiences. The school began in 1959, surrounded by rolling hills of grass and an ocean view. Over the past fifty years, the city of Santa Monica has undergone many changes. The school’s long history of continuity and community provides a focal point of stability for many families. First Pres is a system of interactions and relationships, a place for children, teachers and parents to learn from each other. Teachers respect and value children’s ideas and encourage focus and learning through exploration of the children's own theories. First Pres is in ongoing dialogue with Reggio Children. Amelia Gambetti has been consulting with us since 1996. We look deeply at the image of the child, the role of the teacher and the importance of the environment. Teachers, parents and children are all protagonists in the school. The emergent curriculum works with the interests and theories of the children and collaboration supports our co-construction of knowledge. There is a collaboration of ideas between children and teachers giving respect to the many languages of learning. Our context offers many opportunities for investigation. The proximity of the ocean and beach, farmers market, library, post office, fire station and ongoing construction sites provoke many learning opportunities. The importance of social and emotional growth during the early years is supported through small group work and teaching problem solving skills with peers. Parent education brings together the child’s experiences of home and school. Children are co-participants in the organization of their daily life in the classroom and school. Our environment is continually evolving to create spaces that motivate learning, develop relationships and promote a child's strong sense of self, security and autonomy.

The Hundred Languages of Children is a continuously updated travelling exhibition that, translated into various languages, has been telling the story of the Reggio Emilia educational experience worldwide to thousands of visitors for over twenty-five years (Autumn 1981-Spring 2008). During this time, Reggio Emilia municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools, together with elementary schools, have continued to enrich their journey and explore more deeply with further research. This has created a desire for a new exhibition that can continue the story of today’s children and teachers and today’s education, and accompany the original “The Hundred Languages of Children” exhibition. An exhibition can be a democratic space for dialogue and mutual exchange – a piazza calling international attention to the importance of education and schools as places for discussion and mutual exchange – a piazza for dialogue about our qualities and our limits, about what we are now and what we could become. “The Wonder of Learning – The Hundred Languages of Children” continues the idea of a travelling exhibit. It can be seen as an activator for strategies and areas of cultural activities going beyond the world of childhood, an enabler and promoter of professional development processes in continuous evolution for educators in schools and society at large. The exhibition speaks to all those involved in schooling – teachers, pedagogical coordinators, psychologists, families – and to all members of the general public who believe that safeguarding educational processes and their evolution is of fundamental importance for society. At the roots of this exhibition, there lies a strongly interdisciplinary and intercultural concept of knowledge and learning that guarantees equal rights of expression and listening to head and hands, to emotion and rationality. In this knowledge, aesthetic is no longer confined to artistic and poetic forms of expression but defines knowledge itself and traverses all the different languages. The exhibition aims to re-confirm certain values at the heart of the Reggio educational philosophy and recount the changes, developments and innovation that have been motivated by experiences at different levels and in situations going beyond Reggio Emilia and its infant-toddler centers, preschools and elementary schools, to involve other cities, other areas in Italy and other countries around the world. From A. Gambetti, "Lo Stupore del Sapere I Cento del Languaggi di Bambini - The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children - A New Exhibit from Reggio Emilia - North American Version," Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange, 15(2).