



# American Overseas School of Rome

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF A REGGIO EMILIA INSPIRED PROGRAM

1. Children have potential and possess the capability to construct their own learning. Children demonstrate curiosity and are interested in engaging in social interaction, establishing relationships and interacting with their environment.
2. Children are viewed as active collaborators within a system of relationships with peers, teachers, parents, the environment, the school community and wider society. When working with peers, small groups provide opportunities for children to construct new knowledge together while learning to listen to and communicate with others.
3. Children are natural communicators and should be encouraged and allowed to communicate through diverse means, including a variety of materials and media. This concept is best illustrated by Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia philosophy, in his poem *The Hundred Languages of Children*.
4. The classroom environment is of utmost importance in a Reggio Emilia inspired program and should provide a welcoming sense of belonging. Natural furnishings and colors in light and plant filled rooms encourage real-life, authentic interactions. Children's work and projects fill the room creating a personal space that recounts the process of the children's thought and exploration.
5. Teachers are partners in the children's learning. By observing and listening to children, teachers nurture and guide them in their explorations. Short and long-term, inquiry based projects allow the curriculum to emerge as the children explore their interests. Teachers view their role as one of continual research and learning in collaboration with both children and colleagues.
6. Documentation is an essential component of communication within the classroom. Teachers document the learning process by transcribing children's discussions and comments about their work. Along with photos, this documentation allows both teachers and parents to better understand the children and their process of learning. Detailed documentation also shows the children that their work and efforts are valued.
7. Parents are considered as partners in their child's education and are encouraged to play an active role in their child's learning experience. Parental involvement is a critical aspect of creating a learning community for children.