

Innovations

in early education: *the international Reggio exchange*

PUBLISHED BY WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange is a quarterly periodical published in the United States that focuses on the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy. Each issue features articles and interviews by Italian and North American early childhood educators, whose work has been inspired by the experience of the Reggio Emilia municipal early childhood program.

Innovations is the official periodical of the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA), an organization developed to strengthen collaboration and professional development among Reggio-inspired North American educators. Log onto NAREA's web site (www.reggioalliance.org) for more information.



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- **READ** about the educational philosophy and practice of the Reggio Emilia municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools
- **LEARN** about the experiences of North American educators who are in dialogue with Reggio educators and how this dialogue has influenced their practice
- **DISCOVER** how educators in the United States, Canada and Mexico have developed a better understanding of the learning processes of children and adults through their study of the Reggio philosophy
- **UNDERSTAND** the challenges that North American

educators have encountered as they work to become aware of their own educational values and those of their community

- **FIND OUT** about conferences, study tours and resources related to the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy
- **BE INFORMED** about the North American tour of "The Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit
- **ENGAGE** in an international dialogue focused on enhancing the lives of children through educational-social systems
- **EXPERIENCE** the enthusiasm and renewal that many teachers have found through exploring the Reggio Emilia philosophy of education

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4 issues/calendar year: winter, spring, summer and fall: \$40/U.S. \$35/U.S. Student \$50/Outside U.S

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Reggio Emilia Educational Philosophy

The early childhood program of Reggio Emilia, Italy is world-renowned for its innovative approach to education. Teachers from around the world have traveled to Reggio to observe the 33 municipally sponsored infant-toddler centers and preschools. "The Hundred Languages of Children" exhibit has toured the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, South America and the Far East. This documentation of learning experiences is inspiring many educators to explore the educational philosophy and approach to learning that has resulted in such a powerful harvest of children's creative and cognitive expression, revealing potentials previously unrecognized. Cited by *Newsweek* as one of the 10 best educational programs in the world and featured in two PBS series, *Childhood* and *The Creative Spirit*, the Reggio approach to early education has sparked an enthusiasm among teachers that is unique.

The Reggio Emilia approach is based on a comprehensive philosophy encompassing:

- a respectful image of children as competent and capable
- the role of the teacher as co-researcher and co-constructor in the learning process
- the child's role in constructing knowledge through exploration and relationships
- the importance of the school environment as an educational force and a source of well-being
- the use of a wide range of media and materials to foster self-expression, learning and communication (the "hundred languages")
- the interrelationship and reciprocal influences of children, parents and teachers
- the value of collaboration among all participants in an educational system
- the relationship between school and community

Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange

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From an agreement by Loris Malaguzzi in concert with Eli Saltz in 1992.

Collaboration and consulting with Reggio Children and the Istituzione Scuole e Nidi d'Infanzia, Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy.

Supported by Amelia Gambetti and Paola Riccò, Reggio Children International Network Exchanges.

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