

Istituzione Scuole e nidi d'Infanzia
Comune di Reggio Emilia

Reggio Children

International Association
Friends of Reggio Children



tile project

International Centre
Loris Malaguzzi

Reggio Emilia, October 15, 2007



Tile project

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We would like to enter in touch with you in order to establish a communication that would like to take us to the realization of an important project.

This project seeks collaboration, collegiality, reciprocity and sense of belonging. We would like to start our communication with an introduction that will help all of us to give a context to what we would like to accomplish with your support.

The town of Reggio Emilia has always been committed to quality in Education therefore its investment, in these last years, has also gone towards the effort to open the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi.

“The International Centre is a place of places taking inspiration from the Reggio educational experience but looking towards the future, heightening the international and multicultural dimension that has been there since the beginning [...] It is a tool for helping changes in our teaching, for thinking what we need to do as a city, as world citizens, a tool for creating conditions for paradigmatic change, in our way of conceptualising, of creating relations [...]

The Centre is a large metaphor for what we are, for what we have been and for what we want or would like to be. It is a way of thinking, of thinking of ourselves differently. It is a “metaproject”. [...] Centre as defined by Loris Malaguzzi in the talk he gave at the Kohl Foundation: a port, a place of places, a place for exchange, for ships to harbour in the evening and take provisions.

But above all where they come to tell stories and listen, for through narrating and listening we change and we grow. The Centre therefore is a place of listening in the way our schools are first and foremost places of listening. This is why as its primary value the Centre assumes the relativity of points of view, of dialogue and therefore of research.”

Carla Rinaldi

President of Reggio Children

The International Centre Loris Malaguzzi has become a reference point in the community of Reggio Emilia also due to the presence of:

- Exhibition Halls with exhibitions about the history of the Reggio experience and exhibition projects done in the Municipal infant-toddler centres and preschools
- an Auditorium that hosts initiatives at a local, national and international level for more than 400 people
- Ateliers “Ray of light”
- Documentation and Research Centre
- Reggio Children office
- Play +

The development of the International Centre will see, in the next years, starting from November 2007, the construction of new buildings that will host a preschool and a first year of Primary school, meeting rooms, bookshops and restaurants. (for more information about the International Centre you can also download the two latest issues of Rechild on our web site: www.reggiochildren.it)

The International Centre Loris Malaguzzi represents for us, in this phase of our history, a cultural, social, political and economical investment made by the Municipality of Reggio Emilia in order to give visibility to national and international gatherings, experiences and initiatives that promote research and innovation in different fields.

In order to find symbolic and real strategies to support this investment, Reggio Children promotes a tangible action of participation, collegiality and collaboration from individuals through "tiles", that will be located inside the area of the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi as a trace of your presence.

Each tile will give visibility and contribution to the presence of individuals who wish to participate in taking responsibility for the development of the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi, its identity and the shared values expressed by the experience of the Municipal infant toddler centres and preschools of Reggio Emilia.

"What better way to express your sincere appreciation than by offering donors a permanent place within your organization".

Inside the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi there will be a space that will host the tiles. They will give to all the ones who make the donation, the opportunity to leave a tangible trace of their presence inside the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi but also as a support of the Reggio Emilia Municipal infant toddler centre and preschool experience.

It seems to us a sort of continuation from "brick by brick" (Renzo Barazzoni "Brick by brick. The history of the "XXV Aprile" People's Nursery School of Villa Cella" edited by Reggio Children), the very very beginning of the history of the Reggio Emilia Approach, that also saw its continuation with the beginning of Reggio Children, when individual citizens shared our common project and supported its birth with shares.

We invite all our International colleagues and friends to book a tile, now.

Spaces for tiles are limited to 5.000.

The booking of the tiles would like to be seen as a declaration of intents to demonstrate that, as the history has taught us, united we can make things happen. The cost of each tile will be Euro 300 (three hundred).

The architect Tullio Zini, who designed the International Centre is also responsible for the realization of the second part of it. He showed us the layout of the space where the tiles will be and in a short time we will share it with you all so that you will see how the entire project looks like.

On each tile there will be:

First and last name of the person or of the organization Nationality

And the date when the tile will be laid.

It is with a great enthusiasm that we are promoting this meaningful project at international level because the presence of your contribution will give a strong visibility to the importance of our collaboration together that has really crossed many boundaries.

Why Should I buy a tile?

... In order to support, to be part of a fundraising that will give a contribution to the final realization of the International Centre.

The city of Reggio Emilia wanted to dedicate an International Centre to Loris Malaguzzi as a sign of a deep gratitude and a deep appreciation towards what Loris Malaguzzi, the local administrators and Women Associations of that period of our life founders of the Reggio Emilia philosophy/experience, did for the town of Reggio Emilia and for the contribution to the quality of education. With my donation, I will offer my support to the whole project.

... as a sign of gratitude towards what Reggio Emilia and its experience has offered to me in terms of offering its context as a reference point where different experiences about education enter in dialogue with my own experience of life and work.

... In order to leave a tangible sign of my presence inside the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi that represents the history, the present and the future of the Reggio Emilia philosophy.

This sign will be a memory of my presence left inside the International Centre that will show that I belong to this meaningful project and I share its values and the responsibilities.

We are confident that through our collaborations we will find different strategies to enter in touch with many friends and colleagues who have been in Reggio Emilia also in the past years and who will show interest in this project.

With appreciation and gratitude we thank you in advance for your collaboration. Looking forward to hearing from you we send you all our affection.

On behalf of Reggio Children

Emanuela Vercalli
Tiles Project Leader
Reggio Children International Exchanges

Amelia Gambetti
Reggio Children
Promotion and Development of Initiatives
Coordinator of Reggio Children International Network, Pedagogical Consultant

Book the tile at: evercalli@reggiochildren.it

Fax: +39 0522 920414