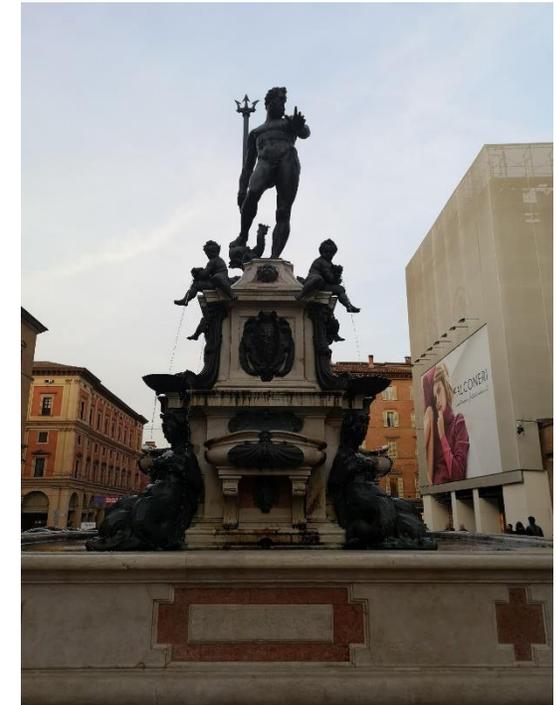
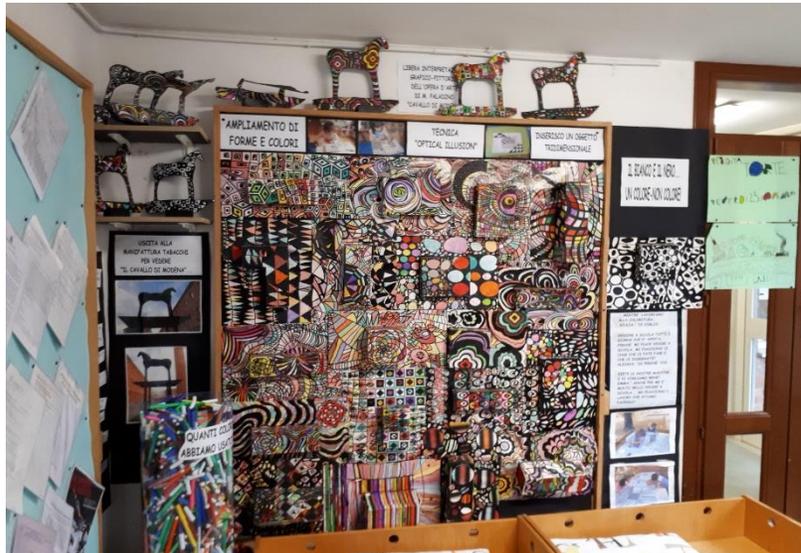


Creative Learning in Early Years in Bologna

November 11th-17th 2018



We were lucky enough to be chosen to attend a course around Creative learning in Early Years that was held in Bologna in Italy. The course was run by LEAP- Language Education and Partnership. The course involved visits to local schools to look at the way they deliver creative learning in Early Years



- In Italy compulsory education starts at 6 years old. We visited 2 pre-schools, 1 for children 9 months to 6 years and 1 for children 3-6 years. Parents have a big input in the way the settings are run and managed. The schools are supported by designated people from the local authority. School hours are from 8am to 4pm. There are no Senior leaders within the schools, staffing consists of 2 teachers per class who rota their hours. The hours are 8.00-1.15 and 9.00- 4.00, staff alternate their days to meet these hours. Parents organise and manage after school clubs until 6pm. This is funded by the parents who pay for a teacher to run the club.

- The school day is about learning through creativity and play. The Language of art is at the base of all learning, with the emphasis on bringing the natural environment into the classroom.



The schools have a nurturing approach within their pre-school education. Children stay in their class groups with their teacher for the 3 years they are in pre-school. Each year the class moves rooms to enable a change of environment. Parents are encouraged to stay with their children for 5-10 minutes each morning to settle them in. Within the school day all children have a sleep from 12.30-3.00 followed by a snack at 3.30 before home time at 4.00.



- The local community plays a big part in the education system. Children experience the local environment on a regular basis to enhance their learning through projects, surveys and interviewing local people to find out how they can help their community. This is rewarded by funding from local banks and businesses. For example a new school was required due to population increases and this was funded and built by a local bank.



- The children learn about independence and responsibility from a young age. Maths was incorporated throughout the day when laying tables and doing the register by counting and solving problems. They all had designated jobs including doing the register and laying the table for snack and lunch time. Children used real crockery and cutlery to eat from and this was also transferred to the home corners and cooking areas along with the access of real food.

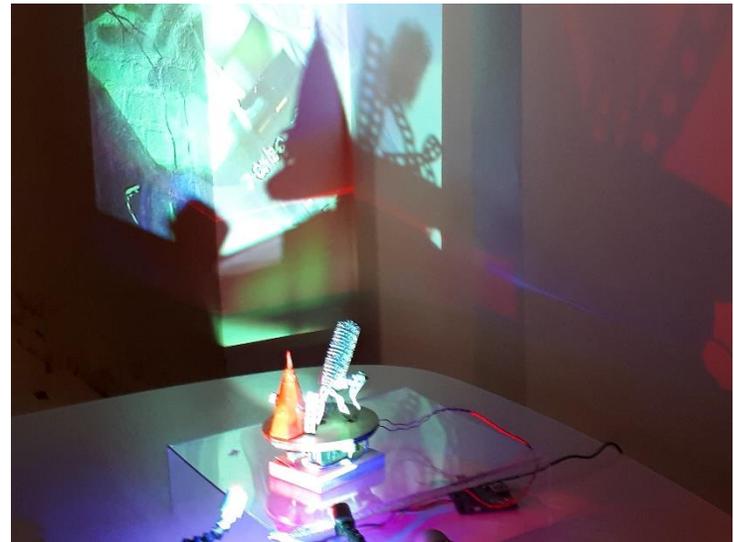


- The outdoor environment played a massive part in the education regardless of the weather or temperature. All children however young learnt to change into wellies and coats before heading outside. Children enjoyed the outdoor learning through exploration and risk taking using the natural resources available to them.





- We also visited the Reggio Children's Centre in Reggio Emilia. We learnt about the Reggio approach and the projects they run within the children's centre. The project has strong links to the community and the children learn by going out into the city and local community. The centre is a training centre with projects and workshops available to the local schools and pre-schools in the area. We experienced the current Atelier (workshop) called Ray of Light. Resources and experiments were set up for children to explore and experience.



- The visit enabled us to have a brief insight into the culture of Italy. Not only did we explore the education system but we also experienced the Italian way of life!

