A TWO DAY REGGIO-INSPIRED INSTITUTE

Join us as we explore ideas and possibilities from the pedagogical approach of Reggio Emilia for our own west coast contexts. Stefania Giamminuti, author and researcher of the Reggio approach, invites us to consider our own identities, our contexts and our images of children, educators, and families. She exhorts us to construct an image of early childhood settings as places of encounter, places of culture, places of democracy, and places for shared research between children, families, and teachers.

Dr. Stefania Giamminuti

Stefania’s engagement with the early childhood field internationally spans over 15 years. Previously an early childhood teacher in an International School in Rome (Italy) and a Montessori School in Perth (Western Australia), she is currently a Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at Curtin University in Perth. Stefania spent six months engaging in PhD research in the world-renowned municipal infant-toddler centres and schools of the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy. She maintains strong reciprocal relationships with educators, atelieriste, pedagogiste, and other key protagonists in Reggio Emilia. Stefania is the author of Dancing with Reggio Emilia: Metaphors for Quality, published in 2013 by Pademelon Press.
Evening Talk (7-9pm):
Young Children’s Right to Beauty:
Aesthetics and Pedagogical Documentation in Reggio Emilia

Stefania illustrates sensitivity to aesthetics of the environment in the schools of Reggio Emilia as a cultural choice and value. She shows how schools and communities can be empathetic environments, welcoming to children, educators, and families, places that ‘belong’ to children and speak of them. This talk will inspire participants to imagine and create beautiful environments for children and with children and to consider aesthetics as a value.

Evening talk: $20. Registration required.

Institute Day One: Early Years Settings as Places of Research - Possibilities from Reggio Emilia

The focus of this day is on thinking about contexts and values in early childhood settings through the lens of possibilities offered by the educational project of Reggio Emilia. Beginning with an overview of key pedagogical principles, Stefania will share stories from daily life in the municipal infant-toddler centres and schools; the evolution of a project drawing and narrative from Arcobaleno infant-toddler centre; the experience of the learning community at Neruda school welcoming a child with Down’s syndrome; and The Story of the Last Paratrooper to Land, a celebration of the ‘meaningful alliance’ between educators and families. Stefania uses rich images and video footage from her research internship in Reggio Emilia to illustrate the possibilities that pedagogical documentation offers to make values and choices visible in early childhood settings.

Institute Day One, July 4: $95 (Two Days $160). Registration required. Lunch included.

Institute Day Two: Dancing with Reggio Emilia: Metaphors for Quality

This day’s focus is on reconceptualizing quality in early childhood settings, and re-imagining research as an ethic of welcome and relationship. Inspired by the voices and daily life of children, families, and educators in Reggio Emilia, Stefania will propose a view of quality as value-laden and culturally constructed. Through the story of her own encounter with the learning communities of Arcoboleno infant-toddler centre and Neruda school, she will explore the image of early childhood settings as places of research, where children and adults are welcomed and valued as researchers in daily life. Examples from daily life - rich images and the voices of children, teachers, and families - are used to frame new understandings of quality and an invitation is extended to teachers to see themselves as researchers in their every day encounters with children.

Institute Day Two, July 5: $95 (Two Days $160). Registration required. Lunch included.

Dwell in possibility... Emily Dickinson