



Cheshire Academies Trust

Reggio Network for EYFS

EYFS Reggio Inspired Practice: Enabling Environments

The Pre-schools in the Northern Italian town of Reggio Emilia have been internationally acclaimed as providing the best early years education in the world. Indeed, the famous psychologist, Jerome Bruner described the practice as the '*only true university*' in the world.

The Pre-schools were established after the Second World War as an antidote to political dictatorships. The parents of the town wanted their children to go to pre-schools that 'practised democracy' and that developed their children's capacity and courage to always ask questions, have their ideas respected and acted upon, deal with big ideas and concepts, that are often typically excluded from early childhood.

The Reggio Inspired Practice Network

We are offering the opportunity for EY teachers and EYFS leaders to join a new learning network, focussed on engaging with the main principles from Reggio Emilia pre-schools, considering together how this is congruent with 'Learning without Limits' and Enabling Environments and Critical and Creative Thinking in the EYFS.

Dates

Introductory session - date to be confirmed.

It is important that anyone wishing to participate in the network attends the introductory day to ensure we understand the complex ideas and principles that have shaped 70+ years of deep pedagogical thinking by the Reggio teachers.

Day 2 and 3 – dates to be confirmed.

There will also be a school visit midway to discuss best practice.

Venue

CLTA Training Suite, next door to Kelsall Primary School, Flat Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0PU

Cost

£300 per person

The gaps in between each face to face day will give network members the opportunity to put their thinking into practice and network remotely, supported by Katie and Andrea. We will collaborate to understand any further requirements to continue with the network in the academic year 2024/25.

Facilitators:

The Network days will be facilitated by Andrea Curran, Curriculum and Research Director for CAT and Katie Parker, CAT Trust Lead for EYFS.

Andrea has been a Head of Early Years for a Local Authority and a National Strategies Regional Adviser for the South West. Andrea was also a Board member of Refocus (the UK contact for Reggio Children and pre-school study tours). Andrea has been fortunate enough to visit the Reggio pre-schools on three occasions and commissioned 0-3 Pedagogistas from the Asili Nidi pre-schools to visit the UK and share their practice throughout the South West.

Katie has worked in Early Years across three very different schools. She is a much valued Assistant Head at Bexton Primary school where she leads an Outstanding Early Years with Nursery provision. Katie has worked with a number of schools to support them in developing their Early Years. She also co-delivers the new NPQEYL Programme on behalf of the Cheshire Teaching School Hub.

Katie and Andrea hope you will be able to join them in exploring Reggio Inspired Practice, in a supportive network and to 'learn without limits' in working with our youngest children.

Expressions of interest should be made to Carole Farrell, Operations Director, CLTA at carole.farrell@cheshireacademiustrust.co.uk

'All people – and I mean scholars, researchers and teachers, who in any place have set themselves to study children seriously – have ended up by discovering not so much about their limits and weaknesses but rather their surprising and extraordinary strengths and capabilities linked with an inexhaustible need for expression and realisation.'

Loris Malaguzzi