



Training Course in:
**Creative Teaching Approaches in Early
Years and Pre-school Education**

Italy



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About the course

There has been an increased focus on improving Early Childhood Education at European Level due to this stage of education being identified as a key to success and fulfillment in later life. Therefore, improving the quality of teaching and learning in early years and pre-school education by developing the skills of those involved in providing such education, is paramount in achieving excellence in education and increasing the participation rates of children.

This full-week course is designed for early years, pre-school and primary staff, and aims to improve knowledge and understanding of creative approaches in early years education. The course methodology encourages active participation, sharing of good practice and reflection of teaching methodologies applied in the classroom to improve the provision and the quality of childhood education in the participants' own settings.

The course is delivered by experienced teachers and advisors, offering a culturally rich learning experience in a region renowned for excellence in early years provision. It includes visits to educational establishments and to the Reggio Children Centre to provide teachers and educators with the opportunity to observe and evaluate teaching practice in 'another

country'. This exposure and interaction also offers the potential to develop links for future partnership work.

Course specific educational aims

The course aims to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of creative teaching approaches in Early Years
- increase competence and confidence in using specific teaching techniques
- further develop knowledge and understanding of teaching techniques for specific groups, and provide teachers and educators with an array of ready made teaching resources suitable for their pupils
- provide an opportunity to share good practice and evaluate own teaching practice
- provide an opportunity to work collaboratively in developing their own teaching plans to use in the classroom

Course dates (refer to website)





Who the course is for

Courses are aimed at early years, pre-school and primary teachers, educators and assistants. The course is designed to meet the needs of the target group and delivered according to the methodology that best suits the age group taught.

In particular, the following staff may apply:

- established early years, pre-school and primary teachers who would like to develop and enhance their teaching methodology within a European context
- advisors who work supporting the training of such teachers
- coordinators and/or headteachers who work to develop curriculum provision within their school/centre
- non-teaching staff who have a role in supporting teaching staff in curriculum planning and delivery

Course methodology and approach



The course encourages the use of a creative teaching approach and includes specific sessions on developing and evaluating specific teaching and learning methods. It also includes sessions to develop partnership work with teachers and educators from within Europe, as well as other activities available under the Erasmus+ Programme..

During the week attendees will be encouraged to reflect on and develop their planning skills and will be tasked with working together to develop their own teaching resources to bring back to their school/centre. These will be shared within the group and uploaded to a public website so that teachers within

the wider educational community can use them. This work forms an integral part of the dissemination activities attendees will undertake upon their return home.

Throughout the week and consistent with a full-immersion approach, a variety of teaching and learning sessions will be delivered with specific teaching and learning aims.

These include:

- methodology-specific classes
- cultural sessions and cultural visits with examples of activities to use with pupils
- visits to educational establishments for observation of practice and an opportunity to make links for future partnership work.

Attendees will evaluate their experience at the end of each day and the course will culminate in an end of week evaluation session and exhibition of their work.





Pre-course and follow-up activities

A website, with a blog, will be set up prior to the course in order to encourage communication between participants. The site will be used to disseminate pre-course work and to encourage delegates to initiate a dialogue between themselves and course trainers.

Delegates will be sent resources and reading books as part of the pre-course preparation. They will be asked to prepare a teaching resource to share with other delegates on the course as well as prepare a presentation about their own setting and country models.

Once back in their own country, teachers will be encouraged to continue networking with other participants and course trainers. All resources developed during the week will be uploaded on the website and additional web links will be shared to continue learning beyond the end of the course. Delegates will be encouraged to continue sharing good practice and, through the website, disseminate additional resources developed post course.

Course evaluation

Attendees will be supported in evaluating their learning throughout the week, within both formal and informal contexts, such as cultural visits and organised social excursions. They will carry out a formal evaluation at the end of each day and this will feed into the summative evaluation at the end of the week. The summative assessment will take the form of a questionnaire and a focus group report, together with an exhibition and formal presentation of the group-work developed.

Course certification

A course-specific certificate will be provided at the end of the training week, together with the Europass Mobility Certificate.

Organisation of course activities (including teaching, cultural events, accommodation and subsistence)

All aspects of the course are taken care of by the LEAP Ltd trainers and advisors:

- accommodation in shared rooms (see page 8 for details of accommodation)
- all teaching and training sessions are included and delivered either at a partner training centre or at a training/conference centre.
- the cost includes all meals throughout the week, local travel and specific cultural visits and excursions as specified in the detailed programme.
- travel to and from the airport in the target country is included in the grant, provided that local public transport is used.

Costs of any other arrangements outside the detailed programme will not be met by the organisers.





Cost of course and funding opportunities

The cost of the course, including course fee, pre-course assignments and support, accommodation, meals and travel to and from the venue, can be funded through the Erasmus+ Programme under the Key Action 1 (Learning Mobility of Individuals). The application for funding is made by the employer of the participant(s).

To apply for the grant, organisation must reside in one of the eligible countries within the Erasmus+ Programme (for UK applicants, visit <http://www.erasmusplus.org.uk/how-to-apply>, or contact our team who will provide further help and guidance). For all other countries, please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

Total cost of course is €1470 which includes:
6 nights accommodation in shared rooms and all meals
Course fee of €490

Accommodation details

All participants will be accommodated in shared rooms in a hotel near the centre and around 30 minutes from the airport.

Travel to and from Italy

Bologna Airport is located 4 miles from the city centre. You can reach the train station using the Aerobus service from Bologna Airport, which takes around 20 minutes.

Many airlines provide frequent flights to Bologna (Ryanair, Easyjet, Alitalia, Lufthansa, and more).

Visit www.skyscanner.net to see some options.

Location of the course

Bologna is a historic city, offering an authentic representation of the Italian way of life. It is the home of the oldest university in Europe and has been nicknamed by Umberto Eco 'La dotta', meaning 'the academic one'.

Other names by which Bologna is referred to are 'La rossa' for its unique red roofs and reddish 'portici' and 'La grassa' for its excellent culinary products.

For more information on Bologna visit its tour office: www.bolognatourism.com



Daily programme of activities

Sunday	
16.00	Registration & welcome by the organisers and trainers
18.00	Official opening of training event and detailed presentation of training programme and arrangements. During this session, delegates will be set the week-long group task, followed by a Question & Answer session
19.00	Dinner at local traditional restaurant
Monday	
7.00-8.30	Breakfast at hotel
8.45 – 9.00	Arrival at training venue
9.00-9.30	Registration
9.30- 11.00	Session 1 Teaching and learning in Early Years and Pre-school education (Part 1): innovative approaches , models, and history
11.00-11.30	Break and networking
11.30-13.00	Session 2 Teaching and learning in Early Years and Pre-school education (Part 2): innovative approaches , models, and history
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Session 3 Teaching and learning in Early Years and Pre-school education (Part 1): the many languages of the children
15.00-15.30	Break and networking
15.30-16.30	Session 4 Sharing good practice session in a 'Show and Tell style' to evaluate teaching methods and educational systems
16.30-17.00	End of day evaluation and discussion
17.00	Free time
20.00	Dinner

Tuesday	
7.00-8.00	Breakfast at hotel
8.30 – 9.30	Travel to Reggio Children Centre
9.30-10.00	Registration
10.00-13.00	Session 5 Specialist workshop at the Reggio Children Centre: pedagogical model and long-term approach to project work
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	Session 6 Evaluation and discussion: Commonalities and differences in teaching approaches
16.00	Return to Hotel and Free time
20.00	Dinner (a taste of traditional pizza) and end of day evaluation and discussion

Wednesday	
7.00-8.00	Breakfast at hotel
8.00-9.00	Travel to a local school
9.00-9.30	Registration
9.30-13.00	Session 7 Visit to an educational establishment for observation of practice and networking
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.00	Session 8 Evaluation and pedagogical discussion of teaching methods observed with local teachers and teaching advisors
15.00-15.30	Break and networking
16.00-18.00	Session 9 Walking tour of the city
17.00	Free time with free evening

Thursday	
7.00-8.00	Breakfast at hotel
8.00-9.00	Travel to a local school
9.00-9.30	Registration
9.00-13.00	Session 10 Visit to an educational establishment for observation of practice and networking
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Session 11 Evaluation and pedagogical discussion of teaching methods observed with local teachers and teaching advisors
15.30-16.30	Return to hotel
18.00-19.00	Session 12 Visit to a library and bookshop for evaluation of teaching resources (Libreria Stoppani)
20.00	Dinner

Friday	
7.00-8.00	Breakfast at hotel
8.45-9.00	Arrival at training venue
9.00-9.30	Registration and a Question and Answer session
9.30-11.00	Session 13 Teaching and learning in Early Years and Pre-school education (Part 1): Our learning in practice Planning session and resources development
11.00-11.30	Break and networking
11.30-13.00	Group work and discussion
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-16.00	Group work and discussion

How to register

The initial stage of application is to complete the registration form. You can either complete the form on the right, returning it by post to:

LEAP Ltd
34, Fallowfield Road
Walsall UK, WS5 3DH

Or alternatively you can complete an electronic version available at www.leaonline.eu or as a Word document on request from:

info@leaonline.eu

Once the registration form has been received, we will notify the applicant with a confirmation e-mail with guidance on applying for the relevant funding.



For additional information, please visit the Language Education And Partnerships website at:

www.leaonline.eu

Registration form (Italy)

Applicant details

Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / _____

Nationality: _____

Employer details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

16.00-17.00	Session 14 Presentation and exhibition of work
17.00-18.00	End of day evaluation and presentation of Certificates.
20.00	Dinner and a Question and Answer session on report writing and follow-up activities and networking

Saturday	
7.00-8.30	Breakfast at hotel
8.30-12.00	Individual Evaluation and Action Plans
12.00	Official goodbye from the team and End of course



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