

LA PINEJA, a place to develop global awareness in happy way

LA PINEJA Reggiana is the preschool section of Espiritu Santo a school with 38 years of foundation and 800 students from preschool up to 11 grade, in Villavicencio Meta, in Colombia. It is set in a farm 72.000 square yards, 15 minutes away from down town with an exuberant natural environment. Since 2011, it has turn to develop a project inspired in Reggio Emilia Approach, using visible thinking to promote critical and creative thinking skills. This Kinder garden is offering an inquiring natural environment to elicit projects to create an environmental sustainability awareness in its community.

“The environment should act as an aquarium which reflects the ideas, ethics, attitudes and culture of the people who live in it. This is what we are working towards” Malaguzzi, 1996:40.

Turning to Reggio Emilia has created a challenge to make learning visible that is why using visible thinking has become a tool to make our students aware of the change and construction of new knowledge with in their projects. The students develop transdisciplinary projects highly bonded to the connection with nature: plants and animals.

Growing plants and taking care of animals are the perfect excuses to develop identity, values, cognitive, communicative physical and creative skills, and specially an interconnection to understand that their own future is closely related to the balance of nature.

The use of thinking routines daily by our students since they are very young, allowed them to rich deep connections in knowledge not only individually but also in groups valuing others opinions. These processes promote our students to express their ideas with enthusiasm to their parents and visitors and to use their knowledge in daily life.

We want to make an interactive workshop for preschool and elementary teachers beginning with a 15 minutes provocation in an open doors garden near the room were the workshop is going to take place using organic resources, follow by a 15 minutes presentation of our project. Then participants will live a creative experience for 25 minutes, to amplify their ideas towards environmental sustainability concept using art and nature together, finally they will make their thinking visible using a 4 C's routine to conclude the workshop.

Our goal is to share or experience with other teachers to enrich and learn from our common use of nature in school activities , to show how preschool activities can be center in a different way and to challenge our participants to see in nature an excellent opportunity to teach the basic skills needed for the formal education.

Reference links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzVc-eL0tzY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC-W1II4dg4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkuwloV9dM4>