



Chandler/Gilbert  
Family YMCA

# 2009-10 Intel Child Care

- \*Preschool
- \*Y-Kidz
- \*Drop-In



## Priority Enrollment

For

**Intel Employees'**

Our preschool programs provide developmentally & age-appropriate curriculum as well as opportunities for exploration & experience approach to activities. A print-rich environment, with emphasis on language & literacy, will focus on the cognitive, social, emotional & physical needs of the growing child. Music, art, swimming, movement education & healthy lifestyle activities will enhance each child's day.

### Forms:

- [Full Day Preschool Registration](#)
- [Part-Day Preschool Registration](#)
- [Drop in Care Registration](#)
- [Y-Kidz School Age Registration](#)
- [New Vistas Registration](#)
- [Emergency Contact Form](#)
- Compressed Work Week Options
- See Pat Berry.

## **The Reggio Emilia Approach**

*"The curriculum is not child centered or teacher directed. The curriculum is child originated and teacher framed...We have given great care in selecting the term 'negotiated curriculum' instead of emergent or child centered curriculum. We propose that 'negotiated curriculum' better captures the constructive, continual and reciprocal relation among teachers, children and parents and better captures the negotiations among subject matter: representational media and the children's current knowledge."*

*Innovations in Early Education: The International Reggio Exchange,*

### What is the Reggio Emilia Approach?

Interest in how other nations educate and care for their youngest citizens, had increased significantly in the United States over the past several decades. The international perspectives that seem to be of greatest interest are those linked to prevailing concerns in American early childhood education. It was within this context that new of the small city of Reggio Emilia, Italy came to the United States. Many early childhood specialists have subsequently explored the implications of Reggio Emilia's work for the theory, practice and improvement of U.S. early childhood education. Reggio Emilia is one of several small wealthy cities in Emilia Romagna, a region in northern Italy with a history of collaboration and political activism. The groundwork for what is now regarded the "Reggio Emilia approach" was established shortly after World War II, when working parents built new schools for their young children. Parents did not want ordinary schools. Rather, they wanted schools where children could acquire the critical thinking and collaboration essential to rebuilding and ensuring a democratic society.

The first presentation on Reggio Emilia in the U.S. took place at the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 1987. Since then, American interest in Reggio Emilia has grown at a remarkable pace.

There are several factors that distinguish this educational approach from others. Of special interest is the emphasis on children's symbolic languages (drawing, sculpture, dramatic play and writing) in the context of a project-oriented curriculum. This feature has been well documented in the traveling exhibition, "The Hundred Languages of Children," a compilation of work from infant-toddler and pre-primary centers in Reggio Emilia.

### **Here are some of the other factors that set this apart.**

**Emergent Curriculum:** An emergent curriculum is one that builds upon the interests of children. Topics for study are captured from the talk of children, through community or family events, as well as the known interests of children (puddles, shadow, dinosaurs, etc.). Team planning is an essential component of the emergent curriculum. Teachers work together to formulate hypotheses about the possible directions of a project, the materials needed, and possible parent and/or community support and involvement.

**Project Work:** Projects, also emergent, are in-depth studies of concepts, ideas, and interests which arise within the group. Considered as an adventure, projects may last one week or could continue throughout the school year. Throughout a project, teachers help children make decisions about the direction of study, the ways in which the group will research the topic, the representational medium that will demonstrate and showcase the topic and the selection of materials needed to represent the work.

**Representational Development:** Consistent with Howard Gardner's notion of schooling for multiple intelligences, the Reggio Emilia approach calls for the integration of the graphic arts as tools for cognitive, linguistic, and social development. Presentation of concepts and hypotheses in multiple forms of representation -- print, art, construction, drama, music, puppetry, and shadow play -- are viewed as essential to children's understanding of experience.

**Collaboration:** Collaborative group work, both large and small, is considered valuable and necessary to advance cognitive development. Children are encouraged to dialogue, critique, compare, negotiate, hypothesize, and problem solve through group work. Within the Reggio Emilia approach multiple perspectives promote both a sense of group membership and the uniqueness of self.

**Teachers as Researchers:** The teacher's role within the Reggio Emilia approach is complex. Working as co-teachers, the role of the teacher is first and foremost to be that of a learner alongside the children. The teacher is a teacher-researcher, a resource and guide as she/he lends expertise to children (Edwards, 1993). Within such a teacher-researcher role, educators carefully listen, observe, and document children's work and the growth of community in their classroom and are to provoke, co-construct, and stimulate thinking, and children's collaboration with peers. Teachers are committed to reflection about their own teaching and learning.

**Documentation:** Similar to the portfolio approach, documentation of children's work in progress is viewed as an important tool in the learning process for children, teachers, and parents. Pictures of children engaged in experiences, their words as they discuss what they are doing, feeling and thinking and the children's interpretation of experience through the visual media are displayed as a graphic presentation of the dynamics of learning.

**Environment:** Within the Reggio Emilia schools, great attention is given to the look and feel of the classroom. Environment is considered the "third teacher." Teachers carefully organize space for small and large group projects and small intimate spaces for one, two or three children. Documentation of children's work, plants, and collections that children have made from former outings are displayed both at the children's and adult eye level. Common space available to all children in the school includes dramatic play areas and work tables for children from different classrooms to come together.

### **Features of the Reggio Emilia Approach**

#### **Teacher Role:**

- to co-explore the learning experience with the children
- to provoke ideas, problem solving, and conflict
- to take ideas from the children and return them for further exploration
- to organize the classroom and materials to be aesthetically pleasing
- to organize materials to help children make thoughtful decisions about the media
- to document children's progress: visual, videotape, tape recording, portfolios
- to help children see the connections in learning and experiences
- to help children express their knowledge through representational work
- to form a "collective" among other teachers and parents
- to have a dialogue about the projects with parents and other teachers
- to foster the connection between home, school and community

#### **Projects:**

- can emerge from children's ideas and/or interests
- can be provoked by teachers
- Can be introduced by teachers knowing what is of interest to children: shadows, puddles, tall buildings, construction sites, nature, etc.
- should be long enough to develop over time, to discuss new ideas, to negotiate over, to induce conflicts, to revisit, to see progress, to see movement of ideas
- should be concrete, personal from real experiences, important to children, should be "large" enough for diversity of ideas and rich in interpretive/representational expression

#### **Media:**

- explore first: what is this material, what does it do, before what can I do with the material
- should have variation in color, texture, pattern: help children "see" the colors, tones, hues; help children "feel" the texture, the similarities and differences
- should be presented in an artistic manner it too should be aesthetically pleasing to look at it should invite you to touch, admire, inspire
- should be revisited throughout many projects to help children see the possibilities

### **Reggio Emilia Resources**

[Reggio Emilia, Italy Resources](#)

[Reggio Emilia - The Council](#)

[Reggio Emilia Resources - Merrill Palmer Institute](#)

[Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education](#)

[Reggio Emilia Calendar for 2004-05](#)

[Reggio Emilia Books & Materials](#)

[Selected Reggio Emilia Resources](#)

[North American Reggio Emilia Alliance](#)