

Abstracts

Enzo Catarsi, *Family education and childhood services in Tuscany*

Participation of parents in the life of nurseries and infancy services constitutes in Italy, and particularly in Tuscany, a significant element of educational project of these important institutions. The article illustrates various typologies of relationship between parents and educators, from an individual interview to laboratories and parties. Besides, the writing sustain that the infancy services can be characterised as pure contexts of family education.

Mariangela Molinari and Anna Tomaselli, *Working towards respect for individuality and differences in gender. Strategies for family education in Infant Services within the Comune of Florence*

Gender stereotyping conditions children from their first years of life and contributes significantly to the formation of their identity. For this reason it is important that Education Services provide experiential occasions for equal opportunity and reconciliation of care provision. Making families more aware of these subjects means creating effective educational projects that are capable of putting into action *indirect family education initiatives*, that are active across the board in the context of Infant Educational Services and *direct family education initiatives*, that involve as the main protagonists, the family members.

Aldo Fortunati, Jessica Magrini, Barbara Pagni and Gloria Tognetti, *Parents' protagonism and family education*

After an history of 14 years of traditional education and care services for early childhood in 1994 the Municipality of San Miniato expand-

ed the provision of its services by opening a play and meeting area for children and families named "Il Paese dei Balocchi". The main characteristics of the service are: the diffusion of the cultural proposal about childhood and education, the opportunity for children to play and meet together and the opportunity for parents to meet and discuss. In a strong planning framework and together with a well-established history of the service, in 2009-2010 the self-management of some afternoons during the week by families was activated in an experimental way.

Barbara Biagioni, *Joining Together for Understanding*

In the area of early childhood services, starting from the documentation of a child's experience to interviews with the families, it is necessary to think about what other educational interventions are possible to enable the co-evolution of adults and children alike, and to move away from the sort of autoreferentiality that seems to characterize the present social context. Pursuing a participatory educational continuity is an objective that cannot be dismissed in a socio-historical context in which people are driven towards isolation. These are precisely the objectives that the City of Grosseto's early childhood services experience, described in this report, is aimed at achieving.

Elisa Bertelli, *Being a «good enough» mum and dad. Courses of family education in Early Childhood Education Services*

The 1995 "Bruno Ciari" Study Centre, commissioned by the councils of Empoli and Valdelsa areas, manages different training events for parents who have children aged from nursery to 14-year old age. The initiative proposed by the "Bruno Ciari" Study Centre is based on the participation of small groups of parents (15-20 people) who, with the co-ordination of an external "expert", discuss and exchange ideas thus acquiring new skills. Parents can freely take part and the covered topics are related to their personal experiences of living with a child in the family as well as within a married couple. The experience of family education, which is featured in the article, was aimed at parents with children from 0 to 6 years of age and was carried out by the "Bruno Ciari" Study Centre in the councils in Empoli and Valdelsa areas.

Anna Lia Galardini, *Participating in our children's education in order to grow with them*

The participation of families has been a very important choice for daycares in Italy, which required organizational strategies and professional skills able to allow parents to become real partners in the life of the educational community. Beside daycares and kindergartens Family Centres have been created in recent years to offer parents the opportunity to share and reflect in a comfortable atmosphere where they can take an advantage of other parents' experiences and of the presence of education experts.

Lilia Bottigli, *Professionals and parents in play*

The project of family education offers services for early childhood, with an initial well-established setting (for small, stable groups of parents and children benefitting from the observation and input of consultants) followed by an exchange between adults (parents and consultants) in which emotions, feelings and thoughts generated by the interaction with children can all be expressed in words. This approach makes it possible to discuss theories but, above all, it provides an opportunity and makes sense of important interaction between children/adults with the aim of drawing adults towards an understanding of the dynamics, expectations and conscious and unconscious conflicts that interweave the emotional ties with children.

Roberta Baldini, *"Almost perfect" parents in viareggio. Family pedagogy and parenthood . Promotion in infant care service For children aged from 0 to 3 years*

An almost perfect parent is the name of the inclusive promotional and supporting project of the parent role organized by the town council of Viareggio. A project that carries out all the educational services from zero to three years of age, and it is divided into several courses and proposals, into many synergies and partnerships with other institutions; a project, in short, which turns to several receivers and which has the ambition to represent, for all of us who live it, either a public intervention of strong reflection and pedagogy of the family or an integrated and systemic approach of welcome, care and inclusion of the so many differences which the *family* institution represents.

Perla Giagnoni and Barbara Davanzati, *Aware parents. weaving relationships between families and offices*

The Municipality of Prato works to promote a conscious and aware parenting, from the following assumptions: parents have the primary goal and “natural” desire for the welfare of their child; parents are a resource in their role as co-educators; parents and families know their own needs and bring their own specificities. Through Educational Services - Pedagogical and Organizational Coordination Office, the Municipality of Prato offers proposals different in ways, timing, content and types to enable every parent to choose the most interesting scope of participation. Identified scopes are: 1. Participation in non-formal initiatives, and projects for parents; 2. Educational information and documentation; 3. Formal Participation; 4. Supporting foreign parents (project “Il Comune Amico della Famiglia”); 5. Supporting children with disabilities and their families (project Cipì-H).