

ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN

Cooperating directly with Reggio Children



Education made in ITALY: TRADITION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION

Our school combines HONG KONG Kindergarten Curriculum with Reggio Children Approach



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About IIN&IKG

The Italian International Nursery and Kindergarten is the first Italian School to open in Hong Kong and was established in 2019 in South Horizons as a non-profit private international school.

It has a direct partnership with Reggio Children, the Italian institution valorising and safeguarding the experience of Reggio Emilia's Municipal Infant-Toddler Centres and Preschools, known in Italy and throughout the world as the Reggio Emilia Approach.

The School has two streams:

- English and Chinese, plus Italian language and culture,
 - Italian and English, plus Chinese language and culture,
- both with half-day and whole-day options.

To enrich and cultivate children's interests, the School organises a wide range of extra-curricular activities and playgroups.



“We think of a school for young children as an integral living organism, as a place of shared lives and relationships among many adults and many children.”

(Loris Malaguzzi)

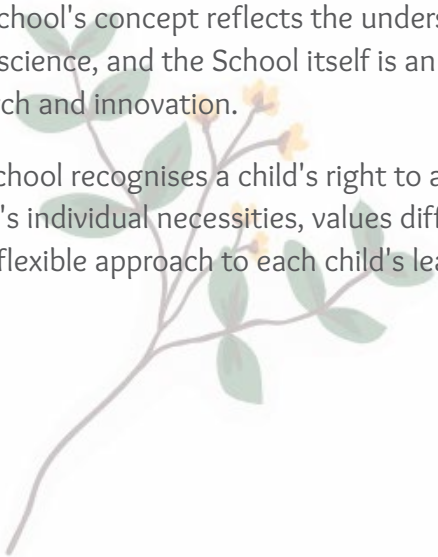


Other than from Hong Kong, current pupils enrolled in the School are from Australia, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Mainland China, Singapore, UK, and The United States. Thus, the IIN&IKG represents an excellent cultural exchange amongst Hong Kong, Italy and other countries.

School's motto: "Education made in Italy: tradition, research and innovation"

Our School's concept reflects the understanding of both pedagogy and neuroscience, and the School itself is an organic institution in constant research and innovation.

The School recognises a child's right to an education, respects each child and family's individual necessities, values different cultures and traditions, and has a flexible approach to each child's learning experience.



Mission And Vision

The Italian International Nursery and Kindergarten represents an excellent exchange of world cultures. The school has a strong international identity that recognises the individual necessities of the pupils and their families, and holds different cultures and traditions in high esteem.



"With a School, the future is brighter!"

Pauline Ngai Cutrupia, Founder

"We have established the IIN&IKG to contribute in the social field by investing in a long-term project for early childhood quality education, which caters to local, Italian and international families, and bridges the Italian, the Chinese and other countries' cultures in Hong Kong, a truly international city."

Franco Cutrupia, Founder



Our Concept Of Education

Following Loris Malaguzzi's teaching, our aim is to make a lovable school, "a place of research and learning," where children, teachers and families feel well, "a place of education", where values are transmitted, discussed and constructed.

Loris Malaguzzi, a central figure in the history and development of Reggio Emilia's network of municipal infant-toddler Centres and Preschools, claimed that the child as a human being "possesses a hundred languages: a hundred ways of thinking, expressing, understanding, of encountering otherness through a way of thinking that weaves together and does not separate the various dimension of experience". The "hundred languages" is a metaphor for every child's uniqueness and endless potential to build his/her knowledge through life experiences and creativity. Education is, therefore, child-centred. As educators, it is our responsibility to provide experiences that naturally develop the pupils' curiosity and listen to them, thus engaging in experiential learning with and thanks to the children.

The "hundred languages" theory is also Malaguzzi's intuition about the need of an intertwined, cross-disciplinary and intercultural education: a belief now recognised by all educational institutions.





Our Premises

The IIN&IKG is located by the waterfront in linear and winding premises, which provide the natural lighting to a great degree. The campus is more than 10,000 ft in size, has six classrooms and several function rooms, such as the art room, light and shadow room, library, music area and play areas. According to the licenses by the Education Bureau, the IIN&IKG can accommodate up to 217 children.

The Founders purchased the premises in 2019 to ensure the long-term sustainability of the School.

The premises have been completely redesigned and refurbished in the second half of 2019. According to the Reggio Emilia Approach, the learning environment is the "third educator" for children. By interpreting this principle, great attention has been paid to details: design, materials, colours, safety etc. The result is a flexible, comfortable and safe learning environment that nurtures the children's curiosity.

The Team

Our team is composed of young, passionate and dedicated teachers. All teachers are native speakers, have attained appropriate training in education and have experience in working with children. The School regularly holds training sessions and workshops with the expertise of Reggio Children.

The team's work is founded on a culture of efficient communication and collaboration amongst each other, and the School guarantees freedom in the teaching methods adopted by the teachers, who are spurred to be an active part in the educational process.





Collaboration With Reggio Children

The IIN&IIGK is the first school in Hong Kong to cooperate directly with Reggio Children. Such cooperation follows the agreement settled by for the Accredited Italian Kindergarten in Beijing, our sister school, established in 2015.

"The Reggio Emilia Approach® is an educational philosophy based on the image of a child with strong potentialities for development and a subject with rights, who learns through the hundred languages belonging to all human beings, and grows in relations with others."

Our cooperation goals are twofold: the quality of the education and the opportunity to raise awareness about the Reggio Emilia Approach and to engage with institutions fostering quality early childhood education in Hong Kong.

In the picture, (left) Mrs. Claudia Giudici, President of Reggio Children, (middle) Mr Clemente Contestabile, Consul General of Italy in Hong Kong, and (right) Mr. Franco Cutrupia, Founder of the IIN&IIGK.

Combination With Hong Kong Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide

The curriculum of the IIN&IKG fully complies with the "Kindergarten Education Curriculum" published by the Education Bureau in 2017.

Teachers' lesson plans are based on the principles of fostering children's comprehensive and balanced development in five fields: "Moral Development", "Cognitive and Language Development", "Physical Development", "Affective and Social Development", and "Aesthetic Development".

Consequently, the educational activity has been organised in six Learning Areas: "Physical Fitness and Health", "Language", "Early Childhood Mathematics", "Nature and Living", "Self and Society" and "Arts and Creativity".

The lesson plans are also conceived to localise, i.e. to adapt it to the local culture the Reggio Emilia Approach combine it into the learning experience of all IIN&IKG children.

Home-learning activities and writing, which align with children's physical development, are arranged to support and consolidate their learning.

Educational visits and fields trips (such as visiting libraries and museums) are organised to help children understand our society through authentic and real-life experience.





Language Development

All the languages (Chinese, English and Italian) taught at the School are given equal importance.

Native speaker teachers and original materials from each language facilitate the children's immersive and natural learning experience.

The School has adopted the Jolly Phonics for the English curriculum. Jolly Phonics is a multi-sensory method to introduce the children the 44 main letter sounds. Each sound has a storyline with key vocabulary, a song to further give it context and an action to help remember the sound. The learning process aims first and foremost at teaching children to read words by blending sounds. The reading skill will be developed by forming words from letters and eventually turning these words into full sentences.

The "Reading Marathon" is IIN&IKG's signature programme to further support children in developing an awareness of the prints, the concept of books, basic reading strategies and their interest and love in reading. It is carried out in all three languages of the School.

The Atelier Philosophy

The Atelier philosophy is rooted in the 'hundred languages' theory of Loris Malaguzzi, and it involves not only children but also adults (as we explain below).

Neurosciences have demonstrated that all our sensorial activities are involved in and contribute to the learning process. Therefore, the latter can be compared to a creative process and it can happen not only through verbal language, but also through graphic, manual, musical, body, dance, etc.

A peculiar feature of the Reggio Emilia Approach is the "atelier": a special laboratory where children act as researchers together with the teachers and the "Atelierista" (the teacher in charge of the Atelier) of the School, and where they construct meaningful experiences.

The IIN&IKG has a variety of ateliers: The Art Atelier, The Light and Shadow Atelier, and lastly The Cooking Atelier.





Documentation

Documenting the children's learning process is a key aspect of the didactical and educational theories of the IIN&IKG. When documenting the learning process, we make it visible and assessable for parents, other teachers and the children themselves.

The documentation is then an attribute of the School's premises, a new possibility for reflection for students, teachers, and parents.

Documentation is done for each project. Material is collected during each activity and later read and reinterpreted by the teachers, who are in close synergy. This process gives new meaning and direction to the educational process.

The IIN&IKG uses the following tools to document and share the documentation with the families:

- Weekly agenda;
- Project newsletter;
- School newsletter;
- School report;
- Children's portfolio.



Parents-School Cooperation

"Education is a right of all, of all children, and as such is a responsibility of the community. Education is an opportunity for the growth and emancipation of the individual and the collective; it is a resource for gaining knowledge and learning to live together; it is a meeting place where freedom, democracy, and solidarity are practised and where the value of peace is promoted. Within the plurality of cultural, ideological, political, and religious conceptions, education lives by listening, dialogue and participation; it is based on mutual respect, valuing the diversity of identities, competencies, and knowledge held by each individual and is therefore qualified as secular and open to exchange and cooperation."





The IIN&IKG creates continuous opportunities for interaction amongst children, teachers, parents, as well as the local community and its institutions.

Parents are informed about the School's life in advance by the weekly notices printed on the school board and shared through the School EVI APP. They regularly receive information through different social media channels (WhatsApp, WeChat, Instagram and School's website). Each semester they are invited to the school observation days.

Parents are also much welcome to join and engage in parent-child activities, such as the Cooking Atelier, Reading Mummy & Daddy Scheme, School picnics, and seasonal activities organised by the IIN&IKG for holidays and cultural festivities.

These social encounters create an environment of cohesion and cooperation, a feeling of mutual engagement and trust. They are a continuous opportunity to share and give feedback about the educational strategies. Furthermore, the school provides a space to openly discuss our idea of education.



Health And Safety

The IIN&IKG plays an important role in guiding children and their family towards a healthy and responsible lifestyle, and encourages children to recognise and respect their own needs and those of their peers.

The IIN&IKG values the importance of a healthy diet and sound culinary education. The latter stresses a balanced approach to delicious food, a healthy diet, a no waste culture and low environmental impact, as well as the pleasure of eating together.

Our food menu follows the Hong Kong Health Department's guidelines and is provided by an Education Bureau approved supplier selected by the School through a tendering process. "3:2:1 ratio" for grains, vegetables and meat applies to our lunches. Snacks include a lot of fresh fruits and juices, low-fat milk, cereals, bread and eggs.



The School has a child protection policy and has installed a Closed-Circuit Television System (CCTV) in every classroom for security purposes.

The quality of the air is continuously tracked, and air purifiers are located in each classroom.

The School bus service is provided by a licensed supplier selected by the School through a tendering process.

Covid-19. The IIN&IKG has set a high level of internal control for the epidemic prevention. We have developed an ad-hoc hygiene protocol and equipped the premises with state-of-the-art equipment (infrared temperature sensors, air cleaners, hand sanitiser dispensers, UV light sanitisers etc.) and regularly distribute goggles, masks, and gloves to all the teachers and staff.



The IIN&IKG at a glance

Two educational streams, both with half-day and whole-day options:

- English/Chinese, with Italian language and culture
- Italian/English, with Chinese language and culture

Minimum age for enrolment:

- Pre-Nursery: 2 years old
- Nursery: 2.8 years old before 1 September of the school year of admission to the nursery classes

Current pupils' nationalities:

American, Australian, British, Canadian, Chinese (both from Hong Kong and Mainland China), French, Hungarian, Indian, Italian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Singaporean.

Curriculum includes:

- Hong Kong Curriculum
- Reggio Emilia Approach
- Jolly Phonics

School Hours:

Monday - Friday

- Half-day morning 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Half-day afternoon 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Whole-day 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Extra-curricular activities:

Art, cooking classes, language classes (Mandarin, English and Italian), lego, Jolly Phonics, mathematics, piano

Playgroups

A rich Reggio experience for toddlers to explore and develop social and independence skills through experience, art and creative sensory play.

School services:

- Lunch service
- School bus
- On-site pre-school rehabilitation services

Health, hygiene and well-being:

- Child protection policy
- Air purifier
- Infrared temperature sensors
- Hand sanitiser dispensers
- Books disinfection machine
- Utensils disinfection machine
- Toys disinfection machine

Monthly School Fee (11 instalments):

Nursery

Half-day HKD 6,195 | Whole-day HKD 9,345

Kindergarten

Half-day HKD 6,825 | Whole-day HKD 10,500

School lunch: HKD 900

Bus service: Please contact the school. Price depends on the itinerary.



“Creativity seems to express itself through cognitive, affective and imaginative processes. These come together and support the skills for predicting and arriving at unexpected solutions.”

(Loris Malaguzzi)



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