



Seminarmonia has re-invented the wheel!

*Yes, you got it right.. we've re-invented the wheel...
(we recognised that positive emotions make learning more effective).*

We'd like to tell you about an idea of ours which we believe will leave you speechless: something you've never heard of before; something new and daring:

The advantages of outdoor and "child-centric" teaching are talked about a lot these days. But *"an idea, as long as it remains an idea, is only an abstraction"*, said Gaber.

So we have put that idea into action!

We are a community of families with an outdoor family education project.

And it's all come about because back in 2017 we acted, tentatively planting a seed, but not at all sure that would sprout!

But with the help of the Ligurian sun blessing us every day, from mid- September 2020, our children have been getting up each morning eager to learn!

How come?

Every day, things happen in our community which are exciting.
Things that can make us cry..
... or make us jump up and pay attention!!

And you know what? ...We find that we've re-invented the wheel in our home lives too!

The **Seminarmonia** parental education support project currently sustains eight families (nine children), offering interdisciplinary educational activities, largely outdoors.

Why a second crowdfunding appeal?

You think you might find the answers you need by reading ahead **our pedagogical ideology**.

We are so grateful to those who gave unconditionally for the first crowdfunding!

And it was their belief in us which allowed us to actually set off down a road from which there can be no turning back, whatever the cost.

But *what are the costs?!*

Pazienza! We'll get to that later!!

Through the first fundraising experience, we met the **TerraNuova publishing house**. And together with them and other friends and associates, the concept of the **gift economy** was born. ...

We give back to our donors!



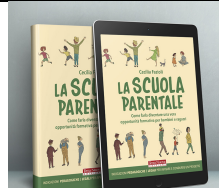


We have several things to give, each imbued with the same message:
"It can be done,! You too can re-invent the wheel!!"



'**La Scuola Parentale**' by **Cecilia Fazioli** (published by TerraNuova Editions) outlines the various forms that educational co-operation between families can take, and how the fundamental pedagogical values might be best understood.

It also contains much wisdom on methodological and bureaucratic concerns.

So we have chosen this book as one of the core gifts that we are offering to those who support us, in the hope that it might sow seeds of harmony in other gardens too!

The Rewards

	<p>€ 10 'Open air' eco pencil-case complete with pencils and sharpener, and with the Seminarmonia logo. <i>(please note that it is essential that you leave your postal address)</i></p>
	<p>€ 30 La Scuola Parentale, digital version, on the Terranuova App</p>
	<p>€ 60 La Scuola Parentale paper hard copy. This also gives you access to the digital version. <i>(please note that in order to receive the paper book it is essential to leave your postal address)</i></p>
	<p>€ 100 "MA" The latest album from the Ligurian singer-songwriter Christian G. AND...La Scuola Parentale paper hard copy. This also gives you access to the digital version. <i>(please note that in order to receive the paper book it is essential to leave your postal address)</i></p>
	<p>€ 130 TerraNuova Newsletter Annual Monthly Subscription (the paper version, which also gives you access to the digital version) AND...La Scuola Parentale paper hard copy. This also gives you access to the digital version. <i>(please note that in order to receive the paper book it is essential to leave your postal address)</i></p>

	<p>€ 200 Fine Art print of 'Three Owls on the Dresser' by Sara Montald</p> <p>AND La Scuola Parentale paper hard copy. This also gives you access to the digital version. <i>(please note that in order to receive the paper book it is essential to leave your postal address)</i></p>
	<p>€ 1000 A weekend Getaway for two in the Upper Argentina Valley where you can discover the places that inspired and motivated us, hosted by the wonderful Agriturismo 'La Fontana dell'Olmo'</p> <p>AND... La Scuola Parentale paper hard copy. This also gives you access to the digital version. <i>(please note that in order to receive the paper book it is essential to leave your postal address)</i></p>

For donations made by December 20th, activation is **guaranteed by Christmas!** (the digital version will be downloadable via the Terranuova App for iOS and Android or viewable on PC)

So what's the verdict on the first few months?

Well. It's down to the audience in the lobby at the end of the show to decide whether the ticket price was worth it.

Our audience are our children, families, grandparents, and the numerous friends and associates who support us..

... and along with the organisers themselves and the generous donors who have already contributed, the message is loud and clear:

"The show must go on!"

And so...?

Unfortunately, even after having filed the patent for our revolutionary new wheel, we are still not rich.

The promise we made at the beginning of our journey was to remain democratic without sacrificing in any way the essential goal of providing diverse experiences which enhance the inherent intelligence and natural talents of each child.

And whilst we await the arrival of more families to help us to achieve our full potential, we continue to follow a flexible policy in which, during this, our 'year zero', each family gives *simply what it can afford to give*.

Enough Blah Blah Blah! Tell us exactly what you do!

We wouldn't expect anything else!

So are you ready?

It's like this:

Seminarmonia is not a school as such, but a project designed to support parental education.

Rather than simply delegating our childrens' education to third parties, we wanted to be able to actively contribute to it.

We felt the need to experiment with teaching outdoors at primary school level, fully aware of the responsibilities inherent in forging a new path; accepting our limitations, but also trusting our intuitions.

With an emphasis on outdoor education and a strong focus on the quality of the relationships; respecting and nurturing the importance of our emotions. we are convinced that we are offering a valuable project for everyone involved...

...one which is worthy of your support.

So what is your pedagogical ideology?

The pedagogy of the project revolves around two basic concepts:

Emotional education and Outdoor education.

The educational program is fluid by nature.

Rather than being divided into different subjects groupings, each week a different theme is chosen - one that can include the full range of educational topics.

Each topic then becomes part of a wider context, and it is the children who guide the specific choices regarding the subject matter.

What does that mean, exactly?

Ok!

Let's say that the class is learning about the human organism.

We might begin by considering the scientific aspects, studying the human organs, let's say. Perhaps using Montessori teaching material.

We might then move on to consider the mathematics involved, introducing measurements of height and weight, for instance.

From there, perhaps, we might move on to discuss humanities, considering non-verbal communication; gestures, and modes of expression.

And then we could do some reading and writing, learning the various words that describe the parts of the human body.

According to our methodology it's the children who lead the learning, with the teachers and families taking an active part in the learning process (as prescribed by the children's choices).

Despite being a relatively small group, the division into secondary groups is considered essential, to ensure that each child has an experience of all aspects of the proposed learning, and that through a form of 'peer learning' knowledge is shared with others and everyone is encouraged to come to their own conclusions.

In smaller groupings, we learn to help each other and to share our particular skills; the older ones might well be able to help the younger ones, perhaps, leading to a boosting of self-esteem, which plays an essential part in enhancing one's personal development.

Play, art and theatre are not treated as separate experiences, but simply as vehicles via which to learn; not just about the world, but also about ourselves and our diverse personalities.

Through music and outdoor experiences the children develop an attitude of attentiveness and observation.

The outdoor activities encourage the child to relate to the elements around them.

Really listening, for instance, to the sounds of the birds and their different songs. Nature is a great teacher, and the lessons learned can be applied across the whole range of disciplines.

Outdoor activities also encompass city life, of course, where the intricate structures of everyday life can lead the children to reflect on the small details that make up our lives - things which might at first seem obvious at first, but take on a whole new relevance when related to the various topics discussed in school.

There is no concept of 'grades'.

We have chosen to embrace 'Free Pedagogy' where the core element is the relationship between teacher and pupil, built on a foundation of authenticity and empathy.

And non-competitive, non-judgemental language is always used .

How many children are enrolled and for what age groups?

Our outdoor family education project supports nine children: seven first-graders, one fourth-grade and one fifth-grade.

Where is the school based, physically?

The physical school is itinerant. We might just as easily be based in the park, on the beach or in the woods. (the diversity of possibilities available in here in Western Liguria is such that there are very few reasons to remain closed in the classroom, although we do in fact have premises provided by the municipality of Sanremo).

Who are the teachers and how they were selected?

In July, we sent out a 'call for applications' in the local press and on social media, to locate educators who might be interested.

About twenty candidates responded, and a number of applicants were asked to come and meet us.

These introductory meetings took place in the park, in the presence of the children.

And it was these first encounters which generated the realisation that only a group of diverse educators could guarantee the effectiveness of the interdisciplinary approach we were visualising.

And a series of secondary encounters led to the situation we have today: an educational team which includes a wide variety of specialist skills, ranging from the 'forest school' concept, to visual art, music and yoga, as diverse and stimulating platforms for learning.

All wonderfully blended together by teachers with whom the children have a personal and intimate friendship.

Intermediate Objectives

If within the first week of the campaign we manage to raise 1,500 euros, then we offer an additional reward:

An invitation to spend a full day with us!

And if within the first month we manage to reach 85% of our goal, we'll add a new 'surprise reward' ... a special event (face-to-face or digital, we'll see) designed to thank those who have supported the project.

And if at the end of our 60-day campaign we achieve our goal?
We shall draw lots for five special invitations to spend a day with us!!

And if we go 'overfunding'?

Free participation for all in a fabulous musical event run by **Christian G!!!**