



The nano Gigante Nursery and Preschool is located in a park and provides a safe, secure and happy environment with access to an excellent selection of resources including equipped classrooms with teaching materials and a secure outside play area freely available to children throughout sessions. We offer care and education to children from 3 months - 6 years from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. The nano Gigante mission is to give young children a creative and playful learning experience that enables them to grow in confidence socially and emotionally be comfortable and happy with themselves enjoy and thrive in future learning situations.

The structure, founded in 1997 in Via Lambrate 18 Milan, the ideal setting for children's education. It was born a different, original and new Nursery and Preschool, "child-friendly", able to keep up with the times, whose validity and was authorized in 1998 by the competent authorities and by Ministry of Education.

Since then, thanks to a careful, coherent and always up-to-date educational action, Il nano Gigante has gained a prominent position and is now considered a point of reference for children's education among the Milanese schools.

Since September 2015 the school has entered a new phase in its history, moving to its new headquarters in via Pitteri in Milan.

Large spaces illuminated by wide windows overlooking the court of the Martinitt Park, a spacious hall for psychomotor activities, an atelier, light-green relaxing classrooms and an original den welcome the children, who can be actors of the our educational process, based on the centrality of the child looking for constant adequate and innovative stimuli.

Our Teachers

We are proud of our friendly, highly qualified and experienced team of staff.

The strength of our school are the teachers, they go through solid training in their specific disciplines. Every day they transform all learning activity into an effective exiting experience making it fun for the children.

The educational staff is composed of 1 class-center teacher for each classroom, an English mother-tongue teacher, a teacher assistant plus the staff coordinator.

The periodic updates to which the educators undergo allow Il nano Gigante to propose itself as a school environment always aligned with the most recent and valid guidelines for a child's education that can take into account not only cognitive aspects, but also emotional ones and sensory learning.

Educational proposal

The objectives that the Il nano Gigante pursues with respect to the educational path are the maturation of the identity, the conquest of autonomy and the development of the primary skills of the child with respect to the sensory and emotional sphere.

In carrying out the educational activity we tend to recognize the individuality of each child, his needs, his propensities and his abilities, to guide and support him in his full development taking

into account his nature and his genuine and personal interests.

The planning of the educational path is based on a serene environment, positive and open to discovery: the child is free to express himself, learn and satisfy his desire to build, learn and deepen his knowledge.

The teaching activities are inspired by the innovative "Reggio Children" method of Reggio Emilia (www.reggiochildren.it), and are proposed through engaging, stimulating and playful experiences. The activities are carried out in the classrooms or outdoor areas dedicated to thematic workshops and are based on the methodology of active participation, with the aim of stimulating children's curiosity and inviting them to discover the world around them through the five senses.

Learning through play

We believe pre-school provides the correct balance of play and learning for children in their most formative early years as all too soon a structured formal education process is upon them when they start primary school. We have a full range of play equipment to stimulate and educate children through play allowing the children the opportunity to play both indoors and out. Children are learning all the time and for them 'playing' is learning. It could be sharing with others, deciding how to play in the home corner or being creative on the sticking table. Before learning to read and write it is important to love stories and books, to recognise shapes and to hold pencils, brushes and other tools. Learning songs and rhymes and listening to music all add to their learning. We have lots of board games where we match colours and shapes, take turns and talk non-stop! They explore, investigate, discover, create, practise, rehearse, repeat and consolidate their developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes. Many of these aspects of learning are brought together effectively through playing and talking. By the time your child goes to school he/she should be speaking well, know colours and shapes, numbers up to ten, be able to sit quietly and listen to stories, recognise his/her name, be able to go to the toilet and dress him/herself without help and be confident about playing with other children. Look around and see whether you can see what the children are learning and please ask questions of the staff. Above all we have a lot of fun together in a group so that your child will not be afraid to take the next step to school. We are confident that the children who leave us have had as good a start as we can give them.

A Typical Session At Pre-School The pre-school organises its sessions so that the children can choose from - and work at - a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities that introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others. Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity - and are encouraged - to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided in the indoor playroom/s. When your child enters pre-school, they will be allocated a named tray which will be used for their artwork, folders and any other communication.

Morning session: Circle time, Supervised free play e.g. Home Corner Book Corner Painting Collage Drawing Play dough Puzzles Sand Construction Toys Physical play, Mid-morning: a snack is offered. **Group time** e.g. Musical instruments Dance/movements to music 'Exercises' Obstacle Course Parachute play Circle Time Songs and Rhymes Story time is for all the children where they are encouraged to learn to sit still and in a group in order to listen. Afternoon sessions have more structured activities for the older children while the 2 & 3 's take a nap.. These activities encourage letter and number recognition and opportunities to practise name writing and book work. Those children 2 terms from starting school will be on the 'preparation for school program'. Small group work, listening groups and lots of community visits as well as library books and are all organised for

the older children as part of a more structured learning environment that is specifically targeted at those children who will soon be starting school. Home work sheets and tasks will be supported although this will always be voluntary. Fundraising money is often used to pay for special activities. We also have our 'living eggs' around Easter hatching our own new born chicks over 2 weeks. Examples of visits already scheduled are the vet's, the deli, the library and both local schools. We also heavily subsidise an annual school leavers trip which is always fun. Show and Tell – children are invited to bring an item in which relates to the weekly topic which parents are informed about on the newsletter or an item of interest which they may have found on their walk to pre-school or a momentum from a family day out. This helps children to think about the weekly topic but also to develop their language skills. Various games and puzzles are available for the children to self select. During each session your child will be asked to have a go at 2 or 3 activities. We always use the outside area (welly boots and warm coats in the winter, while sun hats and sun screen in the summer are required) , looking for insects and seasonal changes. We spend time talking about going to school looking at our transition books, giving each child time to talk about their worries and hear what solutions we can offer each other.

Extra curricular activities

Circus 4 to 6 yrs

The project offers children the opportunity to experience their motor skills and at the same time to refine their expressive-relational potentials, through elements of juggling, acrobatics and clowning.

Music Classes 3 to 6 yrs

Our music course is held once a week by a musician specialized music education for children, and aims to bring the child closer to the great musical universe. The method includes the use of Orff instruments, sound tales activities, singing and dancing.

Children develop inner hearing, listening skills, rhythmic sensitivity, motor control, and concentration, enabling a smooth transition to instrumental lessons.

Swimming 2 to 6 yrs

Within the school timetable, once a week, the school organizes swimming lessons at outdoor facilities. The Learn-to-Swim program focuses on building skills one step at a time. By giving them the opportunity to master one element before moving on to the next, the kids' swim classes make it easy to build confidence in the water.

il nano Gigante

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