

Preschool Twilight Evening Visit



For more information about the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange; go to <http://www.reaie.org.au/>

On 19th March our preschool hosted a 'Twilight Evening' centre visit. These visits are organised by the 'Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange' which is the Australian national reference organisation for Reggio Children in Italy. Twilight visits give early childhood educators the opportunity to visit other settings, collaborate with each other and discuss further how the provocations from Reggio Emilia are approached. Educators came from as far away as Newtown and Clovelly to attend the event and were impressed by the preschool environment and the program. There were over forty participants altogether attending the event. There were many questions and the preschool staff were all happy to discuss how the children work within the environment (which is one of the key influences in the Reggio Emilia Educational Project).

In Reggio Emilia it is often said that 'asking questions leads to more questions' and this was certainly the case within the presentation which was held by Catherine Squire Blatti in the multifunction room. The presentation focussed on aspects from Reggio Emilia, such as the 'image of the child' as a strong, capable learner, the environment and the preschool's approach to inquiry based learning. Here it was described how science has been used as a vehicle for developing thinking skills further in children.



The participants were also very interested in the approach to bilingualism and during the question time we were able to further discuss how each educator communicates in their mother-tongue language. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the opportunity to look around and be inspired.