



# THE BEEHIVE

## DIDACTIC PROJECT

*SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021*

**Coordinators**

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# Index

AN UNUSUAL YEAR: BEING, BELONGING AND BECOMING _____	1
Being _____	1
Belonging _____	1
Becoming _____	2
HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT _____	3
Early years' google classroom _____	3
ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION _____	5
Meetings with teachers _____	5
What to bring _____	5
Reminders _____	6
DAILY ROUTINE _____	7
Snack time _____	7
Lunchtime _____	7
Afternoon nap _____	7
DAILY SCHEDULE _____	9

## AN UNUSUAL YEAR: BEING, BELONGING AND BECOMING

Smiling's goals are the well-being and happiness of the children. Although the times we are living through are uncertain, with the enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism of the teachers along with the support of families, we offer our children a well-organized and lively environment in which they can grow and become citizens of the world, ready to face new challenges.

### Being

What do I look like? This is the first question which the Busy and Honey Bees will try to answer as they explore their physical appearance and take a look in depth at the parts of the body linked to the 5 senses. How do I feel? Is the second question proposed in this mini-project which is aimed at helping the children to recognize and distinguish between different emotions. How do we use our face, bodies and gestures to transmit these emotions? How can we use language to express our feelings?

### Belonging

The children will be encouraged to talk about, paint, draw and show photos of their family and pets to their classmates. They will talk about their home and where they live. As the children listen to their friends, they discover interesting differences and similarities. Perhaps they have an older brother or younger sister too, have the same pet or live on the same road. The children get closer by finding out a little bit more about each person in the class and sharing

personal experiences; it helps them to form friendships and develop a sense of belonging.

## Becoming

This project will focus on changes in the environment and the natural world. Activities indoors and outside in the gardens, in all types of weather, will encourage the children to become keen observers and lovers of nature. The children will be able to experience the seasons as summer *becomes* autumn, autumn *becomes* winter, winter *becomes* spring and spring *becomes* summer. They will plant seeds, look after them and watch them become flowers or vegetables. The Busy and Honey Bees are also going to take a closer look at the school tortoises and see how they grow, hibernate in winter and wake up again in spring. As the children become more confident and autonomous, they will go on walks to local parks (health situation permitting) and talk about their favourite places in Ferrara.

## HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT

The classroom is organized into different areas. These are often linked to the Early Years didactic project with a variety of activities for the children to choose from and a range of materials for them to use. These stimulating areas provide teachers with a perfect opportunity to observe and listen to the children, allowing them to create activities in response to their needs and interests as they change and develop through the year. Consequently, the Early Years project is carried out through a series of mini-projects which combine structured cross-curricular activities led by an adult and child-led games. Both are aimed at developing the emotional and cognitive development of each child.

Play, in its many forms, is an important part of the project, as it is through play that children learn. They continue to develop social skills as they play in groups and develop their own identity in relation to others and the surrounding environment. Play allows them to discover, feel, make decisions and make choices - actions which they will then experiment with in real life. Through play, children also begin to learn to respect rules, take turns and other essential skills for their development.

### Early years' google classroom

Didactic digital learning ('Didattica Digitale Integrata') has become an integrated part of the Italian national curriculum. At Smiling, each class has its own virtual classroom where teachers post photos of activities and special events. They can also share extra activities, songs or games, linked to class topics. This is ideal for families who would like to reinforce learning at home and take part in school life. Families are encouraged to visit the classroom regularly

and are welcome to post comments or photos of work done by the children at home.

## ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

### Meetings with teachers

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for families and school to work together and focus on the child and his/her learning journey. They are held online and can be booked by emailing or telephoning the office. Parents will be given a code in order to join the video conference on 'Meet', accessed by their child's account, which they receive when they enrol at Smiling.

- *Busy Bees – Chiara Mascellani & Laura Bubola: Wednesdays 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.*
- *Honey Bees - Erika Ongaro & Federica Lattuga: Thursdays 1.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.*
- *Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani (EY Coordinators): Thursdays 2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.*

### What to bring

- A soft bag with a couple of complete changes of clothes to be left at school. The uniform needs to be included as well as: a pair of comfortable trousers, a t-shirt, pants, knickers and socks suitable for the season.
- A change of shoes in case of emergency;
- 1 packet of wet-wipes;

- For children who sleep in the afternoon, a soft bag which contains a small flame-resistant pillow (25 x 40 x 5) with a pillow case and a flame-resistant cover/blanket (75 x 100) suitable for the season;
- A dummy and carrying case (if still used at sleep time).

## Reminders

- School uniform is compulsory;
- Shoes without laces and trousers without buttons/fastenings to allow children to move freely
- during activities and to encourage autonomy;
- Toys, soft toys and books from home are not allowed;
- For safety reasons, bracelets, necklaces and jewellery in general are not allowed.

## DAILY ROUTINE

### Snack time

At 9.45 a.m. and 3.45 p.m. a healthy snack is available for the children. It is a time to sit together, taste new foods and develop language skills. Snack consists of fresh, seasonal fruit, crackers or biscuits and sometimes a cake. On Friday afternoons there is a special snack prepared by our cook. Please do not bring food into school.

### Lunchtime

The Busy Bees and Honey Bees eat lunch at 11.50 a.m. in the lunch room. The school cook prepares all meals and we encourage the children to try new foods and to eat on their own. Lunch consists of a first course and a second course, followed by fresh fruit or a desert. The menu, which can be found on the school's website, provides a variety of well-balanced and healthy dishes which also includes regional cuisine. International festivals are also celebrated and children are encouraged to try dishes from different countries.

### Afternoon nap

The Busy Bees and Honey Bees are encouraged to take an afternoon nap from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The child can bring in a dummy, if needed, in a clearly labelled carrying case. This will be given home each day to be cleaned. The sheet that covers each child's bed is washed by the school. Pillow cases and

covers will be sent home every Friday and should be returned on the following Monday.

Children who do not sleep are encouraged to relax with their peers.

*Due to the current health situation, school will provide a bag in which all sleep items will be kept. This bag is to be thrown away at home on Friday and a new one will be provided by school for the week on Monday.*

*A bag will also be provided in which to put a change of clothes. This bag will stay at school and be given home when the seasons change.*

## DAILY SCHEDULE

Parents are asked to please bring and collect their child on time to avoid crowding outside the school and to keep classes separate.

8.10 – 8.20	First arrival time (gym door).
8.50 – 9.00	Second arrival time (gym door)
8.10 – 9.15	Children arrive and have free play
9:15 – 9.30	Toilet
9.30- 9.45	Who is here today? What day is today? What's the weather? Stories & conversation
9.45 – 10.00	Snack
10.00 – 10.30	Music or games in the garden/classroom
10.30 – 11.00	Didactic activity
11.00 – 11.30	Garden time
11.30 – 11.45	Songs & dancing. Toilet
11.50 – 12.10	Lunch
12.15 – 1.00	Garden and preparation for afternoon nap
12.40	Children who do not stay in the afternoon can be collected (main entrance)
1.00 – 3.30	Sleep
3.30 – 3.45	Waking up and toilet
3.45- 4.00	Snack
4.00 – 4.30	Structured activities (story-time and songs) or free play (construction play, drawings) in class or in the garden
4.30 – 4.40	Home time (gym door)