



# COOL CATERPILLARS

## DIDACTIC PROJECT

*SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021*

**Coordinators**

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## 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

Who am I? In order to answer this question the Cool Caterpillars are going to gather a variety of personal information about themselves with the help of different activities. These will explore: their bodies and their physical appearance, character, likes and dislikes and emotions. Using this collection of information, the children will present themselves to each other and find out more about the class and who they are.

### Belonging

The children will participate in specific activities working in pairs, small groups and as a whole class to encourage them to play cooperatively, share, take care of one and other and develop a spirit of community. Taking turns, respecting each other, looking after the classroom, learning about the importance of recycling and looking after the environment are just some of the themes which will be explored as the children develop a sense of belonging to this special class.

### Becoming

Is there anything better than a nice daydream? What do they imagine? A technological future with robots and flying cars or a future surrounded by

magic shrouded in mystery? This is a project aimed at developing their imaginations and creativity as the present day becomes something completely different.

## HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT

The classroom is organized into different areas, linked to the Early Years didactic project with a variety of activities for the children to choose from and a range of materials both natural and recycled, for the children to use (health emergency situation permitting). 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 activities. 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 begin to learn to respect rules, take turns and build up other essential skills for their development.

## USEFUL 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 are given when they enrol at Smiling.

- *Kim Brewster, Beatrice Colombani, Stefania Grossi: Tuesdays 1.30 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.*
- *Philippa Waterhouse & Deborah Ascani (Early Years 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 an 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 h) with a pillow case and a flame-resistant cover/blanket (75 x 100) suitable for the season

## 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 a special snack is prepared by our cook. Please do not bring food into school.

### Lunchtime

The Cool Caterpillars 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. 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 website, provides a variety of well-balanced and healthy dishes and includes regional cuisine. International festivals are also celebrated and children are encouraged to try dishes from different countries.

### Afternoon nap

For the children who sleep in the afternoons, they have a rest from 1.30 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. in their classroom. They can bring in a dummy, if needed, in a clearly labelled carrying case. This will be given home each day to be cleaned. The bottom sheet that covers each child's bed is provided and washed by the school. Pillow cases and covers will be sent home every Friday to be washed and should be returned on the following Monday.

For the children who do not sleep, they are encouraged to relax with their friends, read books and play quiet games.



*Due to the current health situation, the 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.

8.00-8.10	First arrival - gym door
8.30 – 8.40	Second arrival - gym door
8.00 – 9.30	Free play
9.30 – 9.45	Tidy-up & Carpet Time
9.45 – 10.00	Toilet and snack
10.00 -11.20	Didactic activities, SMART Board activities, outdoor structured activities, music, free-play in the big garden
11.20 – 11.35	Toilet
11.35 – 11.45	Carpet Time
11.50 – 12.10	Lunch
12.10 – 1.00	Free-play in the garden or class
12.50	Children who go home after lunch can be collected - main door
1.00 – 1.30	Children who go to sleep get ready to go to bed
1.30 – 3.15	Relax, quiet free-play and activities
3.15 – 4.15	Snack, Carpet Time: stories, songs, games & conversation
4.20 – 4.30	Home time - gym door