

Foreign students: a possible integration

Esperiences in nurseries and primary school in Palermo



WHO I AM



Pueri
soc. coop. soc.



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Sicily an island of migration

Sicily is a multicultural island with lot of foreign citizens most of them second-generation immigrants.

Hosting foreign students is challenging at any age.

The pedagogical approach with foreign students is different and depends on the age of the students.



Where do they come from



- In our schools, most of the foreign students are from Asia (China, Sri Lanka, Philippines) but there are also many students from south America and South Africa.

Pre-school age

Children 0-3 years old

- They are much more available to the change
- Food is one of the main aspect of the life
- Relationship with parents could be a problem
- Relationship with schoolmates are very easy (they use to play close to friends, watching what friends do and copying movements and sounds.)
- They still prefer non verbal approach and are much more available to communicate by signs and sights.
- The adult role is , cultural and linguistic mediator.

Children 4-5 years old

- Children start to talk and verbal communication plays a primary role in the relationship with the mates.
- The adult role is avoiding the isolation of foreign children that could live a sense of frustration if not able to get in touch with mates.
- giving the role of tutor to one of the mates is an effectiveness strategy could be .
- The tutor could change every week or every two or three days, avoiding the risk of getting tired or stressed and allowing all children to feel “important”.

Special educational needs

Foreign children, in Italian schools, are considered “BES” (Special educational needs).

Teacher can not consider as mistakes those linked to the knowledge of the language.



AGE 6-7 YEARS OLD

They don't need a specific course of the local language: they still do not have a perfect formal knowledge of their mother tongue and they will learn grammatical rules with their mates.

Cooperating in a common goal

In few months children are able to follow lessons without any help, and are able to read, talk and answer. They use a simple language but truly effective.



AGE 8-10 YEARS OLD

At this age a tutor could be simply one of the pupils of the class. A teacher dedicated to the foreign student is not necessary at this age.



AGE 8-10 YEARS OLD

It's better to give to the student, books of lower level classes, at the beginning, just to improve his/her knowledge of written language and to avoid the difficulties with more difficult terms.



AGE 8-10 YEARS OLD

Children are able to communicate with mates, they already know a few words of a foreign language, often English, but anyway, they are aware that there are different languages in the world and that words can be substitute by non verbal language.



WHICH STRATEGIES?

Everything will work smoothly using patience, time and a little help from everybody.





THANK YOU