



BAMBINICREATIVI 2017-18



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BAMBINICREATIVI



private progressive education

"Bambini never fails to over deliver and you all have done an amazing job helping my child really mature and develop into a bright, sociable, sweet little boy." - Jennifer F, Parent



BENVENUTI A TUTTI 2017-2018 academic school year

By **Brianne Teevan-Bongiovanni, Founder**

We feel honored you have taken interest in Bambini Creativi's progressive approach to education and are considering our extraordinary learning experience for your child.

Progressive educators and thinkers such as Malaguzzi, Montessori, Vygotsky, Piaget, Gardner, and Dewey have shaped Bambini Creativi's educational experience. Bambini Creativi was built on the holistic principles and constructivist theory of the Reggio Emilia Approach to early childhood education, as well as the latest research in the fields of education, human development, behavioral neuroscience, creativity

and intelligence. Our Preschool and Elementary programs put students at the center of their learning by promoting inquiry-based and differentiated learning; by visually suspending the students thoughts and perspective, by teaching democracy as a responsibility, by integrating sustainable practices, by nurturing a compassionate community, by utilizing technology as tools for higher thinking and by discovering innovation through creative experiences.

Bambini Creativi's preschool and elementary experience not only ensures students will gain the knowledge and confidence

required to successfully move forward in their educational journeys but will also continue to support them as they move forward in life.

If you have any questions about the preschool and kindergarten programs and requirements, please do not hesitate to contact Brianne Teevan-Bongiovanni, Head of School, brianne@bambinicreativi.com or 816.941.PLAY (7529)



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Grande Class student shares his best work and portfolio with his father on graduation day.

OUR IDENTITY

defining who we are at a glance

Bambini Creativi is an internationally known private progressive preschool and kindergarten located in south Kansas City, Missouri. The school has gained notoriety for being a closely replicated school to those in Reggio Emilia. The layout of the building, the interior design of the classroom spaces, the ateliers and imported furnishings from Reggio have captured the intrigue from educators worldwide. Educators have visited from Brazil, New Zealand, Mexico, Belgium, Canada, Italy, Mexico, United Kingdom and from all over the United States. Bambini Creativi has the most viewed video on youtube when searching the Reggio Emilia Approach with over 82,000 views from 168 countries in the world.

Bambini Creativi was founded by Brianne Teevan-Bongiovanni in 2011. The journey to create a progressive preschool began at the Chicago Children's Museum, where she was first introduced to the Reggio Emilia approach. Having taught in preschools before this experience, she was fascinated by the philosophy and began a quest to fully understand it. This led her to move to Reggio Emilia, where she became an intern at the Ray of

Light exhibit. There, dreams of Bambini Creativi were born.

Bambini Creativi at a glance:

- 7,000 square foot cutting edge facility.
- School year runs from September to May. Summer camp is offered June to August.
- Currently serves up to 90 children
- 2.5 year olds (Preschool) up to 9 year olds (3rd Grade)
- Classrooms do not exceed 16 students
- Ratio in Preschool is 1 teacher per 8 students
- Ratio in Elementary is 1 teacher per 16 students
- Lead educational team members have earned their degrees in early childhood or elementary education, or related fields.
- Before and after school extended day opportunities
- Organic snacks and mostly organic lunch provided
- Families represent 29 zip codes from across the Kansas City metro area
- Diverse cultural and religious family backgrounds

“In today’s world, information and knowledge are increasing at such an astronomical rate that no one can learn everything about every subject, what may appear true today could be proven to be false tomorrow, and the jobs that students will get after they graduate may not yet exist. For this reason, students need to be taught how to process, parse, and use information, and they need adaptable skills they can apply in all areas of life—just teaching them ideas and facts, without teaching them how to use them in real-life settings, is no longer enough.”

- Great Schools Partnership: *The Glossary of Education Reform 2013*



OUR PHILOSOPHY

nurturing a system of shared beliefs

Bambini Creativi believes that all children are filled with powerful potential that blossoms at an early age. It is a school that cultivates collaboration in a diverse community with innovative faculty and meaningful partnerships with children and families. We know that long-lasting bonds have a positive impact on a child's first early learning experience. Families make a conscious decision to enroll their children in this particular educational environment because they value original and creative thinking. Parents and educators support the children in their quest to understand new concepts. 'Correct' answers are not always provided; instead the children discover the answers through questioning, exploration, and trial and error.

Our school nurtures children's potential by providing rich learning environments. We support our students with opportunities for meaningful experiences and in-depth reflection. The children represent their knowledge in multitudes of expression. Parents and educators guide children to discover their ability to communicate using words, numbers, art, music, movement, science and the hundreds of combined possibilities. This gives meaning to the inspiration of the "hundred languages of children" by Loris Malaguzzi, the founder of the Reggio Emilia Approach.

Bambini Creativi recognizes that children are not only our future, but are citizens of the world now and are treated with respect and enjoy full rights.

OUR APPROACH

bringing learning to life

Loris Malaguzzi (1920-1994) founded the Reggio Emilia Approach in a city in northern Italy. The municipal early childhood programs in Reggio Emilia have created an educational system that has been identified as the best early childhood education in the world. (See Newsweek: "The Ten Best Schools in the World, and What We Can Learn from Them," December 2, 1991.) The Reggio Approach to early childhood education has attracted the worldwide attention of educators and researchers. This approach to teaching has been adopted all over the world, including Europe, North & South America, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Even the National Association for the Education of Young Children revised the latest version of developmentally appropriate practices guidelines to include examples from the Reggio Approach.

In Reggio, the child is viewed as strong, powerful, rich in potential, driven by the power of wanting to grow, and nurtured by adults who take this drive towards growth seriously. The Reggio vision of the child as a competent learner has produced a strong child-directed curriculum model. Children are encouraged to learn about themselves and the world around them through investigation and discovery. The Reggio Approach has a strong belief that children learn through interactions with others, including parents as partners, staff and peers in a friendly learning environment. The teacher acts as a researcher- always thinking about the children and about their own educational practice. Reggio educators speak of their evolving

"experience" and see themselves as a provocation and reference point for learning.

Key features of Reggio Emilia's early childhood program include:

- * rich learning environments filled with authentic experiences and open-ended materials (*symbolic languages*).
- * documentation is used as an authentic assessment and advocacy of children's learning.
- * curriculum is not pre-determined; it is flexible so that the curriculum follows the child's lead.
- * teachers, parents, and the school community work together to create a shared experience around children's learning.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.brainy-child.com/article/reggioemilia.shtml>

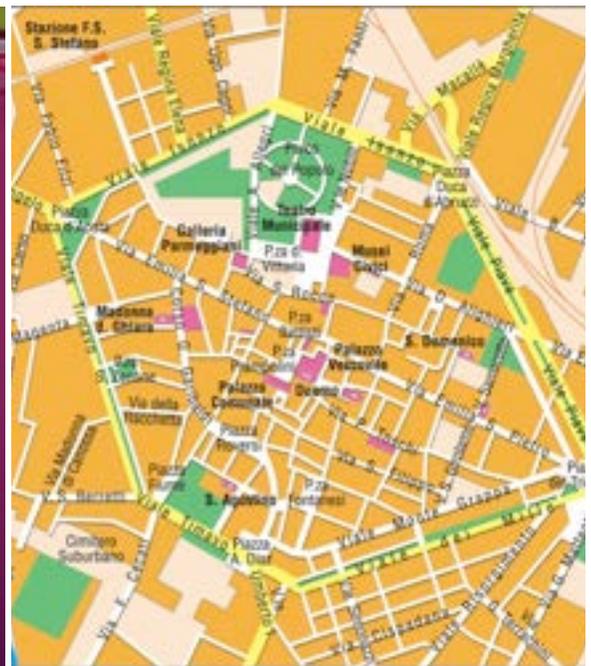
<http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Reggio-Emilia/>

"The Reggio system...is a collection of schools for young children in which each child's intellectual, emotional, social, and moral potentials are carefully cultivated and guided. The principal educational vehicle involves youngsters in long-term engrossing projects, which are carried out in beautiful, healthy, love-filled settings...Reggio epitomizes for me an education that is effective and humane; its students undergo a sustained apprenticeship in humanity, one which may last a lifetime."

- Howard Gardner, Harvard University

"The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather one who leads you to the threshold of your mind."

- Khalil Gibran





“The environment should act as an aquarium which reflects the ideas, ethics, attitudes and cultures of the people live in it. This is what we are working towards.”

- Loris Malaguzzi, Founding Philosopher of the Reggio Emilia Approach



OUR ENVIRONMENTS & ATELIERS provoking curiosity

The interior and exterior spaces at Bambini Creativi have been thoughtfully designed and organized to reflect the values and educational goals of our program and community. Through extensive research and observation of how children interact and learn in various spaces the environment itself was intentionally designed to be the “third teacher”. Bambini Creativi’s educational environment acts as a microcosm for children’s learning, and was carefully designed to support a variety of interests and explorations, to provoke curiosity and stimulate inquiry, to empower autonomy and independence, to promote communication and self-expression, and to foster a system of meaningful relationships.

Taking inspiration from the newly built schools in Reggio Emilia and the years of experience Brianna Bongiovanni had working at Chicago Children’s Museum, Bambini Creativi is truly an extraordinary and unique state-of-the-art 7,000 square foot educational environment fully equipped with a Kids’ Kitchen (*food atelier*), Water Exploration Room (*water atelier*), Winter Garden (*nature atelier*), Art Studio (*material atelier*), Piazza (*social gathering space*), Dining Room, Documentation Room, and

four unique and developmentally appropriate classrooms for preschool, pre-k, jr. kindergarten and kindergarten.

The 1.5 acres of outdoor natural playscape is riddled with hills, mounds, tunnels, and pathways that can be fully enjoyed and experienced through all seasons. The Nature play yard has beautiful edible garden and butterfly garden, a Nature Cafe’, a covered outdoor classroom, a forest preserve, and an outdoor children’s amphitheater.

The learning spaces and environments at Bambini Creativi articulate the values we hold for the educational experience we offer, and advocates for the multiple types of intelligences that are expressed by the unique community of learners and families we serve.

If you would like to experience the beauty of our environments for yourself, please contact us to arrange a scheduled tour of our facility at 816.941.7529, or email at experience@bambinicreativi.com

Take an online tour: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQdAU57Dm9A0>. Copyright Bambini Creativi 2016

Atelier
Art Studio
working with
the *language of*
materials



Atelier d'Acqua
Studio/
Laboratory
working with
the *language of*
water



Atelier di Cibo
Studio/
Laboratory
working with
the *language of*
food



Giardino Inverno
Laboratory
working with
the *language* of
nature and
living things



Piazza
Community
gathering
space



1.5 Acres of
Natural
Playscape
Includes:
slides in hills,
tunnels,
pathways,
edible garden,
butterfly
garden,
outdoor
amphitheater,
forest, play
houses,
covered
outdoor
classroom



OUR CULTURE

cultivating community

What inspires us to do what we do at Bambini Creativi?

We do what we do because we believe in our community, and we share fundamental beliefs about children and the right to a quality life and education. We have confidence in the beauty and the uniqueness of each person, the community, and in our children. We understand that the purpose of education is not a singular endeavor only related to *you* but it is also related to *us*- to the community, and to other people. We are consciously aware that the quality of our schools directly impact the quality of the society we live in. Above education, Bambini Creativi provides a sense of community, a sense of belonging, and a shared sense of responsibility.

In 2007, Carlina Rinaldi discussed a simple but profound connection, that “mothers and fathers from different countries throughout the world have the same fears, the same worries, and the same hopes concerning their children”. The key to our future of our children and our community lies in the attention to the multiple intelligences, the openness to new understandings, and the intercultural coexistence. The cultural experience we wish for our children is one that states that the other is not a problem, but an opportunity for ethical responsibility and compassion. Ethical responsibility establishes fundamental rights in a democracy based on principles of equality, solidarity, and freedom. When we live by shared rules, then we are able to respect living together. The more this becomes common culture, the more we realize that we are all on a journey together. - (Carlina Rinaldi 2010)

“Participation generates and nurtures the feelings and culture of solidarity, responsibility and inclusion; it produces change and new cultures that contend with the dimensions of the contemporary world and globalization.”

**- 2010 Infant-toddler Centers and Preschools
Istituzione of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia**

At Bambini Creativi *we* are on a journey together. The cultural experience of our school is one that cultivates participation, support, openness and ethical responsibility. We know it takes a “village to raise a tomato” and even more to raise a child.

At Bambini Creativi we encourage parents to be active participants in their child’s experience at home and school. Parents and caregivers have several opportunities throughout the year to contribute to their child’s classroom and volunteer for school wide events.

Since family involvement dramatically increases the outcomes of student success, Bambini Creativi takes every opportunity to get together and celebrate what it means to be a member of the community. Parents and families are invited to annual events that include: *Light at Night*, Fall and Spring Garden Parties, Annual Fundraiser Event, Family Field Trips, Holiday Celebrations, Conscious Discipline Parent Workshop Trainings, and much more!



Parents Night

Each semester Bambini Creativi hosts a Parent Night where parents come to learn more about the work that is happening in their child’s classroom. Parents are also asked to work together on a creative project that gets left to the children at school.

Invitation for Participation

Parents and families are invited to participate in extraordinary events that celebrate the joy and wonder of early childhood.

OUR REGARD FOR QUALITY HEALTH, NUTRITION & LIVING being mindful

By Brianne Bongiovanni

Like education, the subject of food has been widely debated. From the production of food to the consumption of food, and the controversy of how it is grown, food remains a hotbed subject in this country. In the last decade obesity has risen to epidemic proportions accounting for more than 20% of America's youth. The rates of obesity in preschool aged children are increasing at an alarming speed. (*American Psychological Association 2013*). In 2010, more than one third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese. (*Center for Disease Control and Prevention July 10, 2013*)

Unfortunately, the upheaval over food does not stop there. In recent years many have spoken out against the use of GMOs (*Genetically Modified Organisms*), steroids and antibiotics, and many other injections used to mass produce the foods we eat to increase companies production and profit margins. These practices have also contributed to the decline of health and the quality of nutrition in our country.

Bambini Creativi recognizes the subject of food as an opportunity to nurture a positive bond between children and food, and act responsibly to support a healthy and sustainable food culture in our community.

When the children eat good food fresh from their garden or actively participate in the preparation of the food they eat, they develop a genuine palette of pleasure and wholesomeness. Through food, children and teachers are able to connect to new experiences, new discoveries, new sensations, new



cultures, new religions, new places, and new understandings. The *Atelier di Cibo*, or Kids' Kitchen, becomes a laboratory or classroom where the subject of food is studied, and mathematical and scientific concepts can be brought to life.

Bambini Creativi only employs qualified kitchen personnel who take food and health seriously, and who are also eager to share their knowledge and passion with children. Our Healthy Living Specialist acts as a resource to adults, and as an educator to the students. You may find the Healthy Living Specialist helping the Piccolo Class plant edibles in the garden for spring harvest, or leading a team of petit chefs who are responsible for preparing and serving the morning snack.

Bambini Creativi makes a strong commitment to quality nourishment by providing organic milk and snacks, a mostly organic lunch prepared fresh onsite by a chef, and by sourcing seasonal goods and produce from local farmers. We do our best to accommodate a range of food preferences and food allergies. Please contact us for a sample of our menu.

“We believe that the winning card can be played at the level of food goodness, sensory gratification, and gustatory satisfaction. In short, it is right to help children discover the immeasurable richness provided by good food eaten in good company, because at school, too, eating means health, pleasure, and conviviality.”

- Ilaria Cavallini, *The Language of Food 2008*



OUR CONSERVATION LITERACY

taking responsibility



Bambini Creativi believes a truly sustainable community is alive, fresh, vital, and dynamic. When children learn to think ecologically and understand the interconnectedness of human and natural systems, then they are able to understand how their active participation can help support a thriving future.

By weaving principles into our everyday routine we teach our children to care about the quality as well as the continuation of life. At school we seasonally plant in our edible garden, we find ways to reduce water use and conserve energy, we encourage recycling and repurposing, we value the circle of life and all living things, and we graciously celebrate Earth Day.

Our *Giardino Inverno- Winter Garden* is a living laboratory where children can have hands-on relationships with a variety of living things and where life lessons are learned.

Our gardens provide an opportunity for our students to actively support the abundance of

life, or to experience the natural consequences of neglect. All of these learning opportunities teach children to pay attention to the world around them, to respect what they cannot control, and to embrace the creativity with which life sustains itself.

Families know when they enroll in our program that children must be prepared to experience the elements and weather throughout the school year. What looks like a lush green natural playscape in full spring bloom will transform into a playscape of hills covered in a sparkling white blanket of snow.

The natural world is filled with many sensational and serendipitous discoveries and adventures. When the natural world outside is invited to dialogue with the education happening inside of the school, the quality of education reaches a new level of compassion, understanding, and responsibility.

For more information on conservation literacy, visit: <http://www.ecoliteracy.org>

“Progress does not have to be patented to be worthwhile. Progress can also be measured by our interactions with nature and its preservation. Can we teach children to look at a flower and see all the things it represents: beauty, the health of an ecosystem, and the potential for healing? ”

-Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*





“When I have kids one day, I want them to all come to Bambini Creativi because it is the best school...and when I grow up, I want to be an editor and write stories about all the things that I did when I was here.”

- Zoe 6 yrs. old student at Bambini Creativi



OUR RHYTHMS & ROUTINES

conceptualizing the flow of the day

The framework of our day closely compares to that of a traditional schedule, however, each classroom’s schedule is flexible and is based on the particular needs of the group of children and the projects they might be working on. For example, if a child discovers a caterpillar while exploring the forest, the students and teacher may decide to extend their outdoor time to continue investigating. If a group of students want to make a soup for a student who has fallen ill, they may decide to spend the majority of their morning in the kitchen with the chef.

Bambini Creativi recognizes that every day holds something unique, in-store whether it is an unexpected surprise or disappointment. Therefore children learn how to adapt to the demands of each day. This may come in the form of taking time to delight in splendor or making plans to overcome a challenge. Each day is filled with many projects and starts with a morning meeting. Meeting times help students reflect on previous projects, share brief updates, showcase a talent or presentation, and ultimately, plan together the journey of their day. From the moment the students walk into the school they are expected to independently participate in basic routines and rituals.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

8:20-8:30	Early Arrival
8:30-9:00	Free Choice
9:00-9:20	Morning Meeting/ Calendar/ Declarations
9:20-9:35	Organic Morning Snack
9:35-10:15	Project Work
10:15-10:45	Outdoor Play or Yoga
10:45-11:30	Read Aloud & Journaling
11:30-11:45	Morning Reflection
11:45-12:00	Half-Day Dismissal
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:30	Quiet Time/Elementary-Integrated Literacy
1:30-2:00	Rest Time/Elementary-Integrated Math
2:00-2:30	Atelier Time
2:30-3:00	Reflection Journals/ Transito Time
3:00-3:15	Organic Afternoon Snack
3:15-3:30	Carpool Dismissal

OUR CHARACTER BUILDING

developing skills for the 21st century

How do children learn? For many years, the focus in research has been on how children learn to think and how they develop language and communication skills. Much less research has investigated how children learn to feel and express emotions, and how they develop the ability to become the “boss” of those feelings. This ability to manage emotions is part of self-regulation. It is strange to consider now, but for a long time emotional development was considered unimportant, secondary to “higher order” functions such as reason (Damasio, 1994).

We now know that all areas are interconnected and developing together – emotions, language, thinking – rendering it ineffective to focus on one area without the others. Children learn best in an environment that acknowledges this interconnectivity and thus focuses on both emotional and cognitive development. There is now an explosion of knowledge that tells us that healthy development cannot happen without good relationships between children and the important people in their lives, both within the family and outside of it. As Dr. Jack Shonkoff states, “young children experience their world as an environment of relationships, and these relationships affect virtually every aspect of their development” (National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2004). Relationships are the active ingredient in healthy development, especially brain development. (Ontario Ministry of Education, *Think, Feel and Act* 2013)

Bambini Creativi adopts Conscious Discipline, a comprehensive self-regulation program that integrates social-emotional learning and discipline. This model focuses on building character through empowerment and making positive choices. It allows teachers to capitalize on “teachable moments” through everyday interactions and experiences in the classroom. Conscious Discipline supports teachers and parents to become coaches, guides, and mentors by helping children recognize their emotions and the emotions of others; by helping children understand their intentions or motives; by helping children verbalize thoughts and

feelings; and more importantly, by helping children generate possible solutions for resolving conflicts.

Bambini Creativi’s character building program supports and promotes what it means to work and live in a community as an “*Amici*” (friend in Italian). We want to develop in each student an informed conscience that will lead him or her to choosing responsible and ethical behavior.

We work on impulse control by guiding children to think before acting. We work on assertiveness so children can set boundaries and prevent bullying and encourage respectful interactions within their community. We create a safe environment where children feel secure to manage their feelings. We incorporate the core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, empathy, and compassion.

Character education becomes part of a child’s everyday experience by teaching, promoting and modeling a set of life skills. These life skills are a list of pro-social behaviors that support successful choices and creates positive attitudes.



“There is such an emphasis on character building at Bambini Creativi...the children are different from any other school that I have ever worked at. They truly embody what it means to be an “*amici*” (friend in Italian) through their extraordinary compassion, and their strong bonds as a community.” - Allison Adler, Lead

A RELATIONSHIP OF UNDERSTANDING

forming a learning group

Being part of something bigger than oneself—whether a small learning group, or a member of the community gives value, meaning and satisfaction to present experiences. This impulse to higher process is often at work when individuals come together to accomplish a complex task in any field. The recognition of one's limits in relation to one's ambitions brings these groups together. Even the small group is considered an entity larger than an individual.

It is possible to see the group as holding the individual in its arms with care, respect, love, rather than some large and cold container in which the individual's rights, needs, and identity are inevitably lost and which crushes the spirit of the individual. Our sense is that the learning group is an ideal setting for individuals to develop, to recognize their own ideals and potential, their own minds, as they offer perception, thoughts, and insights to the group in turn consider those of others. Through debate, experimentation, negotiation that characterize the work of these learning groups, each member comes to see, and in time to value the particular, even idiosyncratic, qualities of others. The valuing of each member's contributions means that each person not only develops respect for the others, but also has the experience for being valued for what he or she brings

to the problem at hand. (Guidici, Krechevsky & Rinaldi, *Making Learning Visible* 2001 Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education)

Children prove that knowledge is not a stagnant endeavor, but a process that is dynamic, modifiable, and constantly taking shape by the influence and knowledge of their peers. These *relationships* to acquiring knowledge create a support to new understandings. Therefore, information that is memorized and repeated without purpose and meaning eventually has an expiration date in your mind. Whereas knowledge that you gained through relationships and stories where you and your friends were the present day protagonist becomes journey of knowledge that you will keep with you for the rest of your life.

“The pleasure of learning and knowing, and of understanding, is one of the most important and basic feelings that every child expects from the experiences he confronts alone, with other children or with adults. It is a crucial feeling which must be reinforced so that the pleasure survives even when reality may prove that learning, knowing and understanding involve difficulty and effort” - Loris Malaguzzi

GRADUATION DAY

Kindergarten students gather together one last time to briefly reflect on their journey as *amici* (friends in Italian) before running through the family and friends graduation tunnel.



CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

bringing imagination to life

Bambini Creativi's educational experience is rooted in humanity's incredible capacity for creative intelligence. Sir Ken Robinson explains, "*The dynamics of creativity flow across every boundary of discipline, time and culture.*"

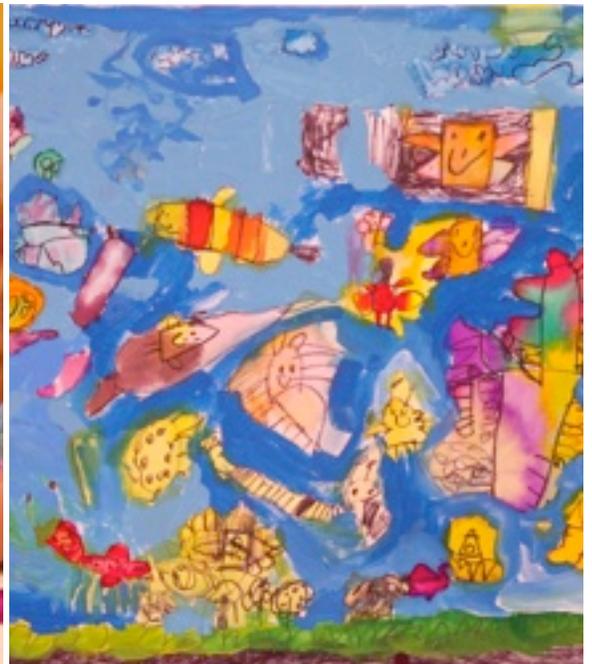
Creativity allows us to bounce interpretations off one another, cross pollinate ideas, solve problems in unconventional ways, take on different perspectives, refine our thinking and challenge our understanding. Creativity is the path to creating a dynamic and wonder-filled learning environment where students can express their talent and skills, knowledge, and understanding through various modes of creative expression.

An individual's creative ideas have the potential of propelling a wave of inspiration to their

community, and thus creates an integral path for innovative learning to take place.

Individual creativity is almost always affected by the work of other people. In this sense, our own creative work is part of a much larger cultural conversation. When we work in teams or partnerships, the dynamics of creativity may seem obvious. But even people who typically work alone – some writers, composers and mathematicians, for example – are influenced, positively or negatively, by the work of others. Sometimes we're inspired by people working in the same field, sometimes by people working in other fields entirely. (Sir Ken Robinson, *Dynamics of Creativity 2013*)

The students at Bambini Creativi are introduced to a variety of mediums and materials from a very young age. When children work with symbolic "languages", such as clay, paint, charcoal, inks, etc., they are able to make ideas tangible, express and convey understanding, and experiment hands-on with a concept that was once thought inside their head.



"Every creative story is different. And every creative story is the same. There was nothing. Now there is something. It's almost like magic."

- Jonah Lehrer, *Imagine: How Creativity Works*



“If you want your child to be intelligent, read them fairytales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairytales.”

-Albert Einstein



LANGUAGE ARTS empowering literacy

The early years are an exciting time for emerging literacy! Our goal at Bambini Creativi is to introduce the quality of literacy in meaningful and relevant ways to empower our students to be active and confident participants in all of their reading and writing endeavors. Literacy in our program is not dissected into parts and scheduled for a specific portion of our school day, nor is it introduced by its rules in perplex ways. Instead, Bambini Creativi adopts a more holistic approach to language and literacy, and capitalizes on the many moments reading and writing opportunities emerge in the daily life of the classroom.

Our educational program encourages students to explore the original ways to connect meaning to written code. Children may be inspired to write stories, journal experiences, create signs, document events, snail mail a friend, write a recipe, or craft a poem. Our language rich environment nurtures students to connect written code to meaning.

Developmentally appropriate instruction is integrated throughout the day, in the skill and strategy areas of reading, writing, and spelling. Ongoing documentation allows teachers to frequently assess children's progress to create plans that make integrated literacy effective. Children begin to develop critical skills to interpret both the function and the purpose of fiction

and informational texts. Over the course of a school year, students will be introduced to a variety of applications for writing. Children will learn how to narrate thoughts, inform readers, create imaginative stories, and learn how to be artistic and expressive in their written communication.

Children's theories transform into written code and verbal expression as they develop individual and group projects as well as evolve as a learning community. A learning group's exciting study of insects may result in the creation of written diagrams or charts. A group of international visitors may inspire children to create signs that orient them and welcome them to our school. An upcoming graduation prompts students to create a book that captures memories of their school experience and friends. Mysterious animal tracks in the forest provoke budding detectives to carry out research in books and on the Internet.

Bambini Creativi appreciates language and literacy development as a social and community building endeavor that cultivates powerful and eager readers and writers. Innovations in technology allow children to interpret written work, collectively animate a classroom story or project, publish an iMovie online, or examine the written treasures we discover in the world around us.

MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

quantifying possibility

Bambini Creativi does not believe the study of mathematics is an imposition for children, not should it be introduced as an artificial exercise with complex rules. Bambini Creativi's goal for its students is to develop a love for mathematical literacy and a deep appreciation for how it is accessible in virtually every aspect of our lives. Within spontaneous classroom experiences mathematical concepts like quantifying, classifying, measuring, navigating, comparing, orienting, graphing, weighing, conserving and exchanging extends children's developing interests into super highways for learning mathematical thinking. The integrated math program for kindergarten not only involves situations that communicate and quantify what is happening around us; it is also part of a formal knowledge base that children want to access so they can become part of the world of social knowledge. Bambini Creativi's math program embraces individual approaches to problem solving while meeting state and national mathematic standards. The goal is to make math accessible, applicable, relevant, useful, and meaningful.

All math work in the early years is connected to real-life application. When children design pretend cities, they calculate dimensions and begin to understand scale and size relation. In order to make enough goji berry cookies to feed parents and guests, children multiply, measure, add and estimate. As children locate their homes on a map, they calculate how far they have to travel to get to the Kansas City Zoo. In addition, they will know what to bring, how much their belongings will weigh, and debate if the weight of those items will be worth toting around all day around the zoo. Bambini Creativi helps children see mathematics as a practical solution for grappling with real problems. Children's experiences and intuitive ideas translates into mathematical theories as they reflect on them, represent them in various ways, and connect them to other ideas.

Children will naturally engage in conceptual understanding and have many opportunities for mathematical expression by using...

- * **Intuitive Thinking** to connect math to something they have experienced in their daily lives.
- * **Concrete Thinking** to create models or tangible experiences to solve problems.
- * **Visual Thinking** to experience diagrams or draw to help solve problems.
- * **Abstract Thinking** to learn to read the numbers and symbols in mathematical equations.
- * **Application** to relate mathematic concepts to solve every day problems.

* **Communication** to verbalize how to solve problems through various forms of mathematical thinking.

Bambini Creativi kindergarten program integrates Singapore Math into the integrated math curriculum. Singapore's approach to math for the elementary years has consistently ranked in the top three for international assessment of student math achievement called the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

Supporters of Singapore Math credit the Singaporean methods of instruction and curriculum for its students' success. While American math instruction often relies on drilling and memorization of many skills each year, Singapore math focuses on children not just learning but also truly mastering a limited number of concepts each school year. The goal is for children to perform well because they understand the material on a deeper level; they are not just learning it for the test.

Students in the same classroom may learn the concepts at different paces, but ultimately they all learn them and help develop their own solid foundation for further math learning. This prevents the need for reteaching as students move to the next grade. *(Laura Lewis Brown, www.pbs.org 2013)*



"When I was in school, the emphasis was on getting the correct answer; here it's about understanding the math and explaining your answer. That's a big thing that parents need to understand." -Char Forsten, author of *Differentiated Instruction: Different Strategies for Different Learners*

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

sharing perspective

Children are naturally curious about the world around them. Their quest to understand their communities and surrounding environments help children gain a sense of self, and a sense of others. Children appreciate and are stimulated by diversity. They openly accept and embrace differences, as they become more in-tuned observers of their immediate world.

Bambini Creativi wants to expand young children's understanding of the many ways people experience life, and more importantly foster young children's natural capacity for peace.

Bambini Creativi's *Global Classroom* allows students to engage in a cross-cultural exchange via *Skype*. Students will not only have the privilege to share their cultural context face-to-face with their international friends, but they will also form meaningful relationships that build global awareness, responsibility, understanding and peace.

Grande class students setup their new computer to Skype with friends around the world



SPACE MISSION

One student's fascination of astronauts and outer space quickly transform into a study of space missions with friends. Students explore Google Earth on the interactive projector.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

deepening exploration

Children's discoveries, curiosities, doubts, theories and amazements are most often provoked by their fascination with science. Bambini Creativi fosters children's inherent desire to make new discoveries and explore the world around by creating rich learning environments that provoke children's sense of inquiry. From pulleys and rope placed near the upstairs loft to high-

powered microscopes near the open aquarium in the Winter Garden, Bambini Creativi's learning environments are carefully crafted to provoke experimentation.

Our goal is to increase children's awareness of scientific thinking and to deepen their endless quest to investigate the "why" through inquiry and experienced based learning.

Students have access to iMacs in every classroom, iPads, digital cameras, microscopes and audio recorders to stimulate exploration, examine data, and expand reasoning abilities. Bambini Creativi sees the value of responsibly utilizing technology in the classroom as students are prepared to thrive in the 21st Century.

STUDENTS DURING THE SUMMER CAMP WEEK OF DRAMATIC PLAY- Students got to create their own super hero identity



SUMMER EXPERIENCE CAMP

THE WONDER OF SUMMER making memories and friends

Summer Experience Camp at Bambini Creativi guarantees children will use their minds to imagine, their bodies to move and play, and their hands to create. Our goal is to design a summer experience that allows children the freedom to explore innovative ideas, discover new talents, build confidence, and develop new friendships! Join us for an unforgettable summer! Enrollments starts in February, contact us for further information at 816.941.PLAY (7529), or email experience@bambinicreativi.com

TUITION & FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018

investing in your child's future

TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE

Bambini Creativi's Annual Tuition includes organic snacks and milk, and a mostly organic fresh made lunch prepared daily by the school chef. Tuition also includes processing fees, material fees, technology and documentation fees, and free admission to all of Bambini Creativi's Family and Community Events. Application must be submitted with a \$50 Application Fee & a \$185.00 non-refundable Enrollment Fee to officially apply and be on waiting list. If your child is accepted into our program, you will need to pay a \$1,150 deposit before May 1st to secure your child's placement.

PAYMENT PLANS

All families are required to enroll in Tuition Express online payment system.

- Annual Plan
 - * One payment due by August 1
 - * 100% of total tuition and fees
- Semester Plan
 - * Two payments are due on August 1 & December 1
 - * 50% of total tuition and fees
- 9-Payment Plan
 - * Nine payments are due monthly August through April
 - * Approximately 11% of total tuition and fees

* All tuition and fees and other costs not paid within 30 days of the due date will be assessed a finance fee of 10%, and may result in suspension of all services.

OTHER COST NOT COVERED BY TUITION AND FEES- *Please review Enrollment Agreement Contract*

Enrollment & Application Fee, extended care (optional), books, school supplies, field trips (optional), annual developmental screening, summer camp (optional), school fundraisers and charity donation drives

Tuition Schedule	Plan III (9 payments)	Plan II * (2 payments) (3% discount)	Plan I * (1 payment) (5% discount)
Preschool, Pre-K (<i>Piccolo & Medio- 3 to 4 years old</i>)			
2 Full-Day (8:30am-3:30pm)- <i>Includes healthy lunch program</i>	\$639	\$2,790	\$5,463
3 Half-Day(8:30am-12:00pm)	\$617	\$2,691	\$5,270
3 Full-Day (8:30am-3:30pm) - <i>Includes healthy lunch program</i>	\$988	\$4,315	\$8,452
5 Half-Day(8:30am-12:00pm)	\$988	\$4,315	\$8,452
5 Full-Day (8:30am-3:30pm) - <i>Includes healthy lunch program</i>	\$1,545	\$6,740	\$13,202
Transitional K (<i>Grande & Grandissimi- 4 to 5 years old</i>)			
5 Half-Day(8:30am-12:00pm)	\$988	\$4,315	\$8,452
5 Full-Day (8:30am-3:30pm) - <i>Includes healthy lunch program</i>	\$1,545	\$6,740	\$13,202
Elementary K- 3rd Grade (<i>Grandissimi- 5 to 9 years old</i>)			
5 Full-Day (8:30am-3:30pm) - <i>Includes healthy lunch program</i>	\$1,545	\$13,202	\$13,202

* Payments are rounded.

APPLYING TO BAMBINI CREATIVI

2017-2018 academic school year

Thank you for your interest in Bambini Creativi's early learning educational experience. We know that choosing the right school for your child and family is one of the most important decisions you will have to make. We want to help make admissions to our program an easy process for you. All applicants must fully read and complete the admissions steps listed below to be considered for enrollment to our program. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Admissions Office at 816.941.PLAY or 7529 or by email experience@bambinicreativi.com. The Priority Application deadline is February 1. All applications received after February 1 will be reviewed and accepted in classrooms with remaining openings.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1. Attend a tour while school is in session.** We recommend parents/guardians schedule a visit to our program prior to admissions process to see our learning environments and learn more about our educational philosophy and offerings.
- 2. Complete the Enrollment Application and submit to Bambini Creativi with a non-refundable \$50.00 Application fee and \$185.00 Enrollment fee to secure spot on the waiting list. The waiting list does not guarantee you a**

a spot in the classroom, however it will secure your spot on the list in the order your application and fees were submitted to the office. Pay by check or phone.

- 3. Complete Tuition Agreement & Contract and secure Enrollment with \$1,150.00 Tuition Deposit.** This fee will only be collected if the office has guaranteed your child placement for enrollment. The Enrollment Deposit will be deducted from your total tuition.
- 4. Complete All Enrollment Forms in Enrollment Packet for office and administrative use.** (Emergency Contacts, Medical Forms, Transportation Release, Documentation Release, Food Profile, etc.)
- 5. Complete the Child & Family Intake Form.** Every student entering Preschool-Elementary must have all intake forms and essays completed before consideration for placement in our program. Please take the time to fully think about the questions and answer them to the best of your ability. These forms give us adequate insight to seeing if your child and family will fully benefit from the educational experience we offer.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Bambini Creativi is a developing for profit private school. While we strive to meet the needs of our applicants, we unfortunately have no financial scholarship support at this time.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela





BAMBINICREATIVI

Reggio Inspired Preschool + Kindergarten

Identity Guide

bambini
creativi™



400 EAST 135TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO 64145

TO: