

Centro Abi di Piacenza

Intergenerational Learning: a Nursery School and a Retirement Home within the same structure.



Project author or developer:
Unicoop

Where:
IT / Italia / Provincia di Piacenza

Website:
www.cooperativaunicoop.it/index.php?/abi

Unicoop has created - in collaboration with the Comune and the Provincia di Piacenza, Regione Emilia Romagna, Fondazione di Piacenza e Vigevano and Cariparma - a Nursery School and a Retirement Home within the same structure. In the Centro Abi (Anziani e bambini insieme - Elderly and children together) where 80 elders live, finds its space also a nursery with 40 children, from three months to three years old, sharing many public areas. It's called "intergenerational learning": in the same facility, meet and play together children and elders, spending time between fairy tales, gardening, and cooking classes. Active since 2009, Centro Abi is a social, cultural and educational meeting place; it's a place to exchange experiences, where the elderly are able to offer society - and new generations growing - their skills. It is - by now - the only project of this kind in Italy, but similar experiences are active in France and, above all, in Seattle, at the "Providence Mount St. Vincent - An Inter-generational Learning Center", the first nursery school to be situated in a retirement home, that became famous around the world with the documentary "Present Perfect". Thinking about intergenerational actions is a way to enhance the life conceiving it as an arc, an existential continuum in which every fragment of life is intended "in the making" and takes on a value intrinsically linked to the moments that preceded it as to those who will follow it.

The between-generation dialogue is dialogue between times. Time is tolerance, respect, slowness ...future and waiting.

