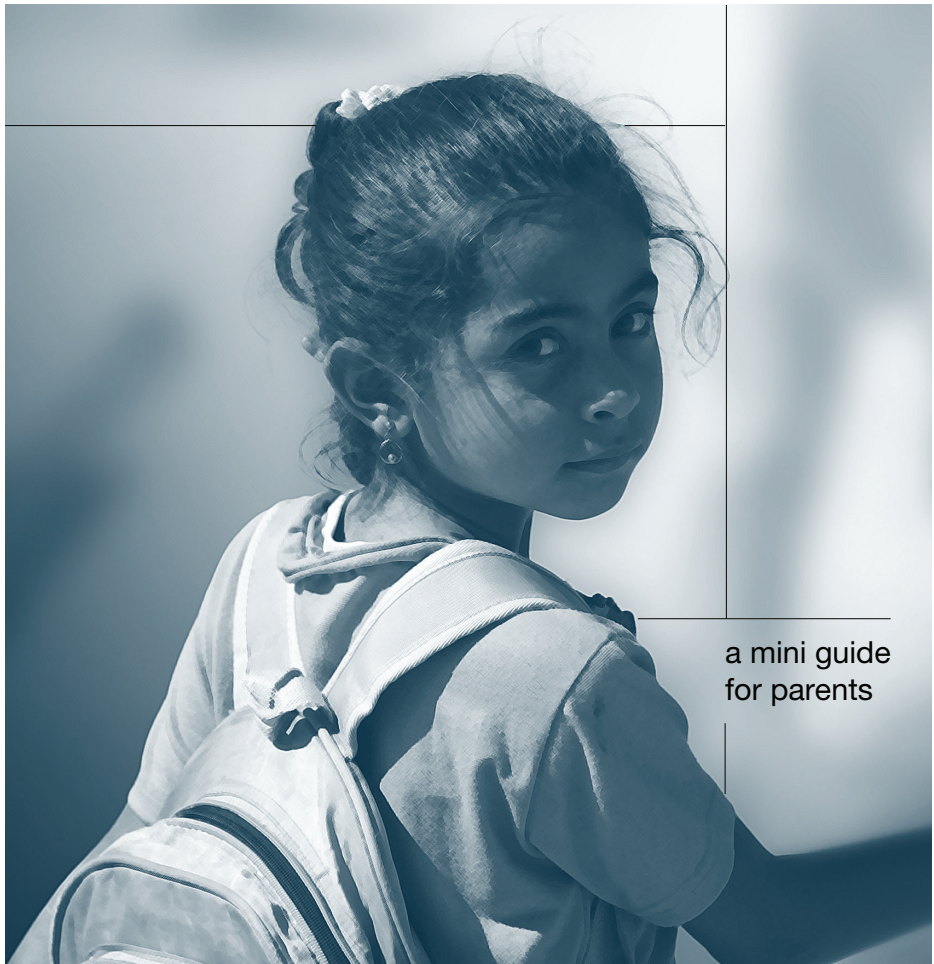


How does education *help* *newly arrived children?*



a mini guide
for parents

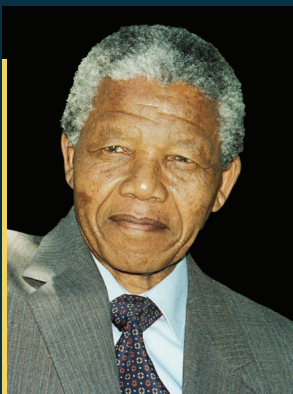
What is education and why is it so important for children?

Education means the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include teaching, training, storytelling, discussion and directed research.

Education gives one a knowledge of the world around them, it helps to develop a perspective on life and teaches one to build opinions and have points of view on things in life. Education enables one to interpret things and make sense of the world. Every child and adult should have access to education and to the possibilities and opportunities it provides.

WHY IS EDUCATION SO IMPORTANT

Because a person can acquire...




“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

NELSON MANDELA

What is the system of education in Italy?

According to the Italian Constitution, education is compulsory for at least 10 years between the ages of 6 to 16. Everyone has the right to education up to 18 years of age and the duty to complete at least a three-year upper secondary education pathway. All regions in Italy respect the same Constitution.



General School Calendar: Each region has its own school calendar, in which exact dates might slightly change. Generally, educational activities start in September and end in June. The main holidays are Christmas break (usually, from the 22nd December to 6th of January) and Easter break (usually, lasting one week).

On top of these, there are also the national bank holidays: All Saints' Day (November 1st), Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th), 2 days for Carnival (usually in February), Liberation day (April 25th), Worker's day (May 1st), Republic day (June 2nd) and a local patron saint (depends on the city).

Schools must ensure at least 200 days of lesson per school year. Students have a maximum number of absences from the classroom would be 50 days.

Childhood Education: This level is for children from 3 to 6 years and is not compulsory. Parents are free to choose the school they wish to send their children to. Curriculum is organized around the development of five different fields of experience: the self and others; body and movement; images, sounds and colours; speech and words; knowledge of the world.

Educational activities take place for a total of 35 weeks, according to the specific school calendar established at regional level.

Primary Education: This level is for students from 6 to 11 years. The attendance is compulsory. Age is the main criterion for enrolment. Children are gathered into classes by same age.

Curriculum is defined through national guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education. The main subjects are: Italian, English, history, geography, art, Catholic religious education (optional), mathematics, science, technology, music and sports. School year is divided into three-month or four-month terms, as established by each school. At the end of the fifth-year children obtain a certificate to pass to the secondary education level. Final examinations are not required.

Lower Secondary Education: For students from 11 to 14 years. The attendance is mandatory. In order to enrol the student, parents have to present the certificate of the primary school.

The subjects are: Italian, English, a second foreign language, history, geography, citizenship and constitution, Catholic religious education (optional), mathematics, science, technology, music, arts and sports.

School year is divided into three-month or four-month terms, as established by each school. Periodic assessment takes place at the end of each term. For assessment purposes, the school year is divided into three-month or four-month terms, as established by each school. Final assessment takes place at the end of each school year and at the first-cycle State leaving examination held at the end of the third year.

Upper Secondary Level: For students from 14-19 years. Parents can enrol their children after providing a certificate of the examination taken at the end of the lower secondary school.

There are two different path a student can take:

1) General Upper Seconady Education: is delivered by six types of high schools specialised in the following areas:

- liceo artistico – specialising in arts.
- liceo classico – specialising in classical studies
- liceo delle scienze umane – specialising in human sciences.
- liceo linguistico – specialising in languages.
- liceo musicale e coreutico – specialising in music and dance.
- liceo scientifico – specialising in sciences

For teaching purposes only, the five years of general upper secondary studies are organised into two periods: the first two years and the three last years. School year is divided into 3-month and 4-month terms, accordingly to the school decision. Final assessment refers to the procedures that take place at the end of each school year and for the final state examination, which is held at the end of the 5 years cycle.

2) Vocational Education and Training Schools: Specialised in different working sectors, such as economics and technology, service and crafts.

Duration of vocational education is 4- 5 academic years. Final assessment varies from region to region, but usually consists of a theory or a written test; practical part (e.g. laboratory work, use of machines, problem-solving, etc.); oral exam or an interview.

The first two years of upper secondary education are mandatory, whether undertaken in a general or vocational school. At the end of both high school and vocational secondary school, students take a state examination.

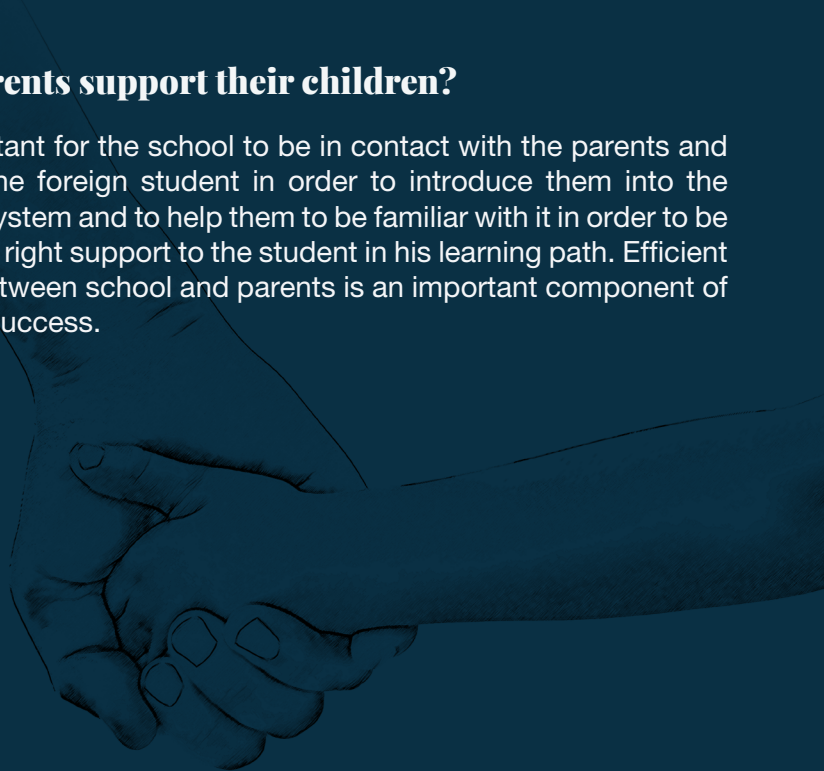
Rights and responsibilities of newly arrived children in education

The Ministry of Education, University and Research provides specific guidelines for the integration of foreign students in the Italian school system. The teaching staff needs to take into consideration factors such as the educational system of the country of origin, their previous study path, their assessed level of attainment, the level of Italian language.

Foreign students should have at least A2 level of proficiency in Italian in order to attend the schools. Those who intend to have a recognition of previous schooling to continue their studies in the Italian school system needs a declaration of value issued by the Italian diplomatic or consular authority in the country of origin, indicating the juridical position of the school (state or legally recognized, with name of the headmaster/manager), the value (duration and grade of studies to which the degree is refers), and the validity for the continuation of studies and employment in the country in which it was achieved.

How can parents support their children?

It is very important for the school to be in contact with the parents and the family of the foreign student in order to introduce them into the Italian school system and to help them to be familiar with it in order to be able to give the right support to the student in his learning path. Efficient cooperation between school and parents is an important component of any student's success.



What are the support programs for newly arrived families and their children?

STEPS: “Sistemi e Tecniche Educative e Pedagogiche per Stranie” (<http://www.programmaintegra.it/wp/programma-integra/progetti/steps-sistemi-e-tecniche-educative-e-pedagogiche-per-stranieri/>)

- Italian language courses;
- Intercultural education workshops;
- Cultural mediation interventions.

Scuolemigranti (<http://www.scuolemigranti.org/>)

- Language education and education of parents;
- Legal consultations.

Integrated (<https://www.integrated-project.eu/>)

- Mentorship programme;
- Workshops for teachers and school staff on development of intercultural environments;
- development of e-learning modules for teachers, school staff and mentors;
organisation of encounters among teachers and parents.

How can ULM Project help newly arrived children?

We believe every single child can make a big difference in future, and we want them to believe their potentials. The aim of the Universal Language of Mathematics Project (ULM) is not only supporting newly arrived children academically, but also increasing their motivation for success in their school lives. We know that most of the students finds Mathematics the most difficult subject, especially when it is learnt in another language. We want to change this belief. This project will show them every student can do mathematics. We eliminated the language barrier for them, and prepared mathematic books with less words and more fun. We used colors, pictures, and shapes to teach them mathematics in the same level as native students in their classes. We also gave instructions of the questions in Italian, English and Arabic. So, parents can easily help their children while their learning journey. We believe that the ULM Project will make this journey motivating and fun for newly arrived children.

www.ulmproject.com

**ULM
PROJECT**

