

DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS IN ITALY AND THE UK

There are many differences between the school systems in Italy and the UK.

Some of these differences are:

-NURSERIES (OR CHILD CARE CENTRES) IN THE UK

There are various alternatives for very young children:

- Public nursery schools
- Private nursery schools
- Nannies (who go to children's houses or the children are taken to the nanny's house) – a nanny will generally look after only one or two children.

Costs vary according to the services offered.

Families with little money can take their children to (free or almost free) nurseries managed by volunteers. Children generally start at a nursery school when they are two and a half or three years old, and the first year is a preparation for later activities.

Children of three and four years old attend nursery schools part-time, generally in the mornings, while children of up to five attend full-time.

If a child is just two, the parents can take him or her to centres equipped for children under 3 years old, with specially trained staff.

These child care centres offer a good programme, helping the children to learn to grow as part of a social group, as a person and physically. The

many activities include starting to read, writing, drawing and learning simple maths.

In the UK the structures are regularly inspected, to ensure that the centres meet the standards of health and hygiene, food quality, teaching, safety and general psychological care set by the Ministries of Health and Education.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN UK:

In England elementary schools also take the name of “primary school”, which are divided into :

- Infant school (stage 1) : includes children of 5 and 6 years old
- Junior school : includes children from 7 to 10 years old.

The children must wear the uniform of the Institute that they attend.

Infant school is similar to the ‘scuola materna’ in Italy, because it takes the youngest children into a ‘preparation for school’ class, which is obligatory. At the end of this two-year period the students move on to Junior School.

No more than 30 children are allowed in each class (room). The more numerous classes have two teachers working together in tandem. Different teachers, qualified to teach in the different subjects, have a certain number of hours with each class. At the age of about 11 years old, after National Tests called SATs the children start at a secondary school. The principal objectives of the primary schools are the learning of:

- Literacy (learning how to read and to write)
- Numeracy (learning arithmetic and how to make calculations)
- Notions of sciences, history, geography and other subjects

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ITALY

TO BE CONTINUED...