



MOBILES IN THE SCHOOL?

Parma 2013



**OBSERVING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR WITH
A MOBILE IN THEIR HANDS**



Starting planning

- Observing reality
- Searching for information on the Internet
- Sharing opinions with other partners
- Introducing some old devices to three years old students classroom
- Listening to children
- Reminding some pedagogic ideas and quotations:

“The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done...” (Piaget)



Some thoughts

- Students today are immersed in the society of their generation, and they observe their parents' usage of mobile phones. In many cases, families are those responsible for introducing children as young as 1-2 years of age to the possibility of such mobile resources as a kind of “portable” screen for children to entertain themselves. Therefore, it is necessary to facilitate a framework for group reflection among families where we can discuss the following questions:
 - What advantages and disadvantages will we be provided from having such technological means within our reach?
 - What can one do with a mobile phone?
 - A High technology with immediate availability
 - A device with an easy and intuitive use
 - A tool that could be productive: for searching for information, for “building” our own Knowledge or for the acquisition of new experiences ...

1st. ACTION

Reflect with families about : The Use of Mobile Phones in the Environment of our Students

Objectives

- Facilitate reflection about how children use mobile phones and the possibilities that they provide to children.
- Achieve a change in attitude among families towards the use of mobile phones with their children: *Analyzing adults responsibility about how to use ICT supposes to know how to use technology as well as abuse and misuse of mobiles. Using mobiles mustn't be an award but a competency. If schools must include their students' reality within their classrooms there is no sense not allowing mobiles inside them...*
- Realize that the mobile phone can be now, and above all in the future, more than just a device to play games or watch videos; rather, it can be a tool for learning.

How?

- ORGANIZING debate meetings
- SHARING, with other families and school staff, experiences and ideas.



More ideas

- The mobile phone is deviating from its original function, communicating between two people by voice or text.
- It is becoming a quality multimedia tool that is completely equipped to the extent that, in many cases, we are able to leave behind our cameras, video cameras, or even computers.
- Mobile phones are small devices of information, communication, and storage, but we are interested in the mainstream use of mobile phones and the small digital divide created by its use.
- Using mobile phones for learning purposes will allow us to discover the following: how close and accessible mobiles are for young children, the advantages and disadvantages from daily use in the school of this type of technology, and social behaviors and habits associated with it.



2nd. ACTION

From a fragment to a complete object

Objectives

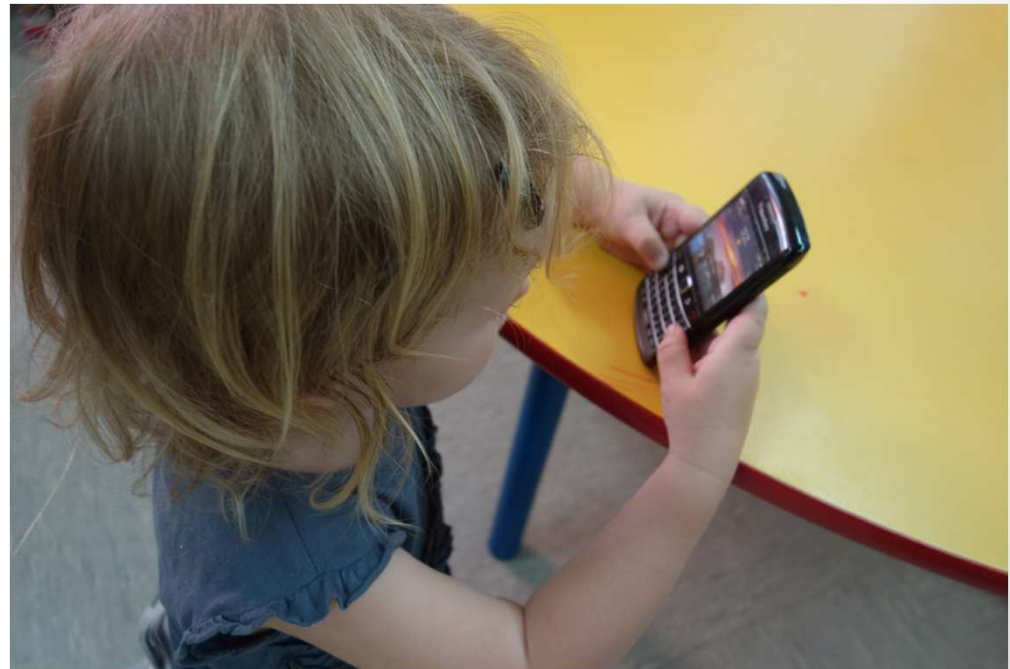
- Utilize the mobile phone as an accessible resource to photograph elements or record sounds from the environment.
- Send and receive photos of pieces of different objects from other mobile phones.
- Obtain materials that allow us to teach children to make an inference about an entire object from a small piece.
- Collaborate with older students and students from Italy to carry out a project thanks of using mobile phones

How?

- Students from Zaleo School will take partial photos of common objects in their environment. They will send these photos to high school students and other students in Parma.
- Photos will be sent by WhatsApp, and they will include the following question: “What can this be?”
- At the same time, our students will receive photos from the other two associated schools, and they will have to decide which objects the image refers to.
- In order to help us make our inferences, we will be able to use WhatsApp to ask other students for clues or tips that will help us discover the entire object behind the initial image.
- Finally, when students get the right answer, the complete photo will be sent.



ONLY VOICE OR TEXT?



Latest reflections

- Students should be able to establish a direct relationship with the world that surrounds them, which in this case, is through as an object that they encounter habitually and that they handle much more than one might initially think.
- Approaching this object in a natural method allows us to "normalize" its presence and display it as an object with connotations of different uses from those that families are more accustomed to, such as for viewing videos or a screen for games.





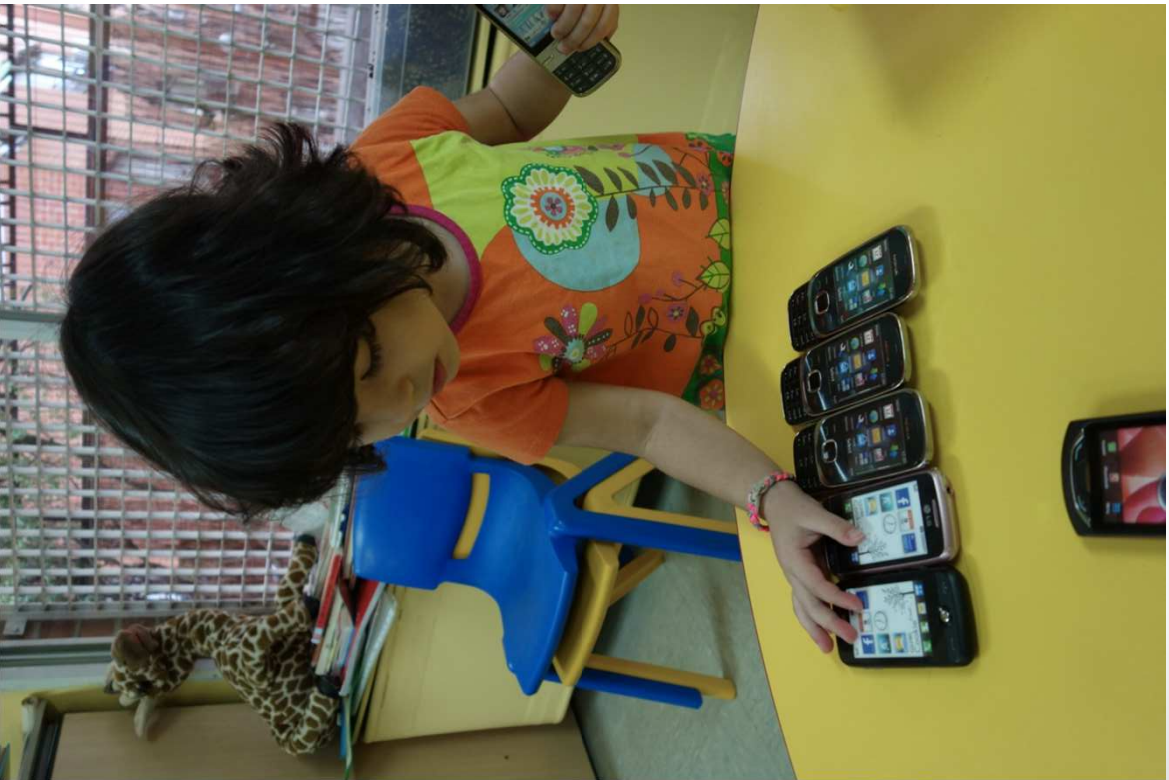
3rd. ACTION

The Mobile Phone as an Object

Objectives

Utilize the mobile device as:

- an object of fun and learning in the classroom
- an additional support to approach mathematical content: mobile contacts, stacking, arranging objects in a series, constructing...
- an expository object from using it safely, creatively, significantly, and collaboratively
- a symbolic object that allows us to effectively connect with others



How?

- Zaleo students will participate with mobile phones in the classroom, first as a game with or without symbolism
- then as a material for curricular content (number schemes, mobile contacts, and geometric shapes)
- and after as a base of artistic expression where they will be able to transform this object into something close to them.





I know how to use them more
than you think !, so...
Do you dare to let me use
mobile phones at school?

