

Running Head: Description and Critique of Reggio Emilia

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Teacher-as-Researcher

Action Research Project

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EDT 660

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Abstract

Reggio Emilia began an Action Research Project 40 years ago to try to conduct an early childhood program. They wanted their program to be different than the traditional school setting by creating unique aspects. For example, making the schools environment resemble the home life environment. Reggio Emilia educators believe that the continue success of their projects lies on the teachers acting as researchers. It is essential that everyone involved in the program continues to do research on certain problems and questions that arise in the program. With continue research Reggio Emilia will stay a successful action research project and will remain unique to other early childhood centers all around the world.

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Description

Loris Malaguzzi had an idea 40 years ago to start an early childhood program in Reggio Emilia, Italy. He did not want a traditional school setting. He instead wanted a project that promoted the importance of teachers learning from the students and building on student's interest for their education. Even today educators of Reggio Emilia are still researching and making changes to this 40-year-old ongoing action research project.

After 40 years the Reggio Emilia School is still conducting research to help improve their school. A topic that they are focusing on is how to have a holistic early education for children in a community based and child centered learning environment. They believe that the community, which would be parents, teachers, educators and community restaurants, play an important part in a child's education. Reggio Emilia educators believe that the children should decide the curriculum and that the teachers need to base their lessons around the children's interests.

One reason why Reggio Emilia is a successful research project is because the teachers are continuously acting as researchers. They find certain problems in their education program and ask questions to help make it more successful. Reggio Emilia educators focus more on problems and questions that arise in their program because they have a strong belief that they will never fully understand all the problems in the program,