

Ray of Light, Inspiring Reggio Emilia Practices A workshop by the Odyssey educators

Inspired by the Reggio Emilia practices, environments in the Odyssey are organized to play a key role as protagonist in empowering, inspiring and instigating active learning. In this role, the environment becomes spaces filled with diverse, creative materials for touching, exploring, inquiring and discovering that encourage not just the children but the adults, to observe and rediscover the richness, beauty and possibilities of materials.

A workshop by the Odyssey educators for the educators, this workshop is a sharing of our Odyssey educators' creations and interpretations of the 'Ray of Light', which is a rich, exploratory space that emphasizes experiences in scientific and aesthetic investigations. At this vibrant learning area, children are meaningfully and purposefully engaged in investigating and interacting with light, reflections, shadow, space, colours, form, lines, symmetry and balance.

Four interactive workshops were planned to engage teachers in experimenting, forming hypotheses and exploring whilst discovering the possibilities and potential of materials that effectively promote children's learning and intellectual curiosity.

Part 1: An overview of Reggio Emilia Approach and Sharing of Insights into the Inspiring Reggio practices in the Odyssey

An introductory session, presented by our Director of School, Ms Kelly Hor; was an insightful sharing of Odyssey's practices which are inspired by Reggio Emilia pedagogical approach. Some of these Reggio-inspired principles include;

- Educational philosophy that respects and empowers the child
- Environment as spaces for learning and living
- Emergent curriculum, self-selected activities and a project-oriented curriculum where teachers work with learners to solve real-world problems
- Individualized observation and documentation
- Collaboration school community, systematic approach to professional learning, families and community support

The introductory session also highlighted the setting up of The Ray of Light, which is an interactive space that promoted the potential and possibilities of materials in supporting children's explorations, experimentation, and inquiry experiences that blend elements of science with the aesthetics.

Part 2: Ray of Light Interactive Workshops (Concurrent sessions)

Four interactive sessions were planned in this second part of the workshop, which had actively engaged our teachers in experimenting, forming hypotheses and exploring whilst discovering the possibilities and potential of materials.

Session 1 – Light Painting

Facilitator: Mr Fadyly Asis, Senior Art Specialist @ Wilkinson
Co-facilitators: Ms Nor Faizah, Senior Curriculum Specialist @ Wilkinson
Ms Apple Ho, Curriculum Specialist @ Wilkinson

In this session, teachers explored with light as a medium to create art. They used different light sources to create lines and colours, similar to the concept of using different brushes to create brush strokes. While 'painting with the light', images were captured on a camera. In the process of 'painting' with light to create beautiful designs and works of art, the teachers learned and explored with the elements of art such as lines, colours, shapes, space and form.



Session 2 – Shadow Play

Facilitators: Ms Drizzle Hshieh, Curriculum Mentor @ Fourth Avenue
Co-facilitators: Ms Faeizah, Senior Curriculum Specialist @ Wilkinson
Ms Liyana, Curriculum Specialist @ Wilkinson

Workshop facilitators started the session by sharing about how the overhead projector (OHP) could be incorporated into the classroom to enhance children's learning. The teachers worked in 5 groups at five different stations. Each of the group was actively engaged in using OHP for writing and drawing; for puppet play and story-telling; for science experiences; for exploring with open ended materials such as leaves, pebbles, bottle caps etc; and for creating dramatic/constructive play.



Session 3 – Ping Pong Light

Facilitator: Mr Patrick Lim, Programme Specialist
Co-facilitators: Ms Yvette, Senior Programme Specialist
Ms Alice Alagan, Curriculum Mentor @ Wilkinson

In this session, a group of teachers worked collaboratively together to redirect a beam of light to light up a disco ball, using handheld 'lollipop' mirrors. In their efforts to achieve this, the teachers were encouraged to apply their prior knowledge of how light travels in a straight line, whilst collaboratively problem-solved, analyzed and discussed strategies for achieving their goal together.



Session 4 – UV Light Painting

Facilitator: Mr Herman, Art Specialist @ Fourth Avenue
Co-facilitators: Ms Candy Low, Curriculum Mentor @ Fourth Avenue
Ms Raudha, Curriculum Specialist @ Fourth Avenue

In this session, teachers experimented painting with luminescent paints – mainly fluorescent and phosphorescent paint, in small groups. Elements of art such as lines, shapes, textures, space and form were also explored. In the process, the teachers built up their knowledge about luminescent paints – how they become luminescent after being exposed to light, how they absorbed and emitted light to create a 'glow in the dark' effect.

