



Another string to the bow

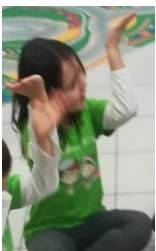
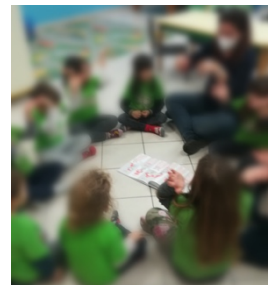
Involving pre-primary kids in the creation of our Virtuously – Virtually Erasmus+ logo.

When some months ago the team members of the Erasmus+ Virtuously Virtually Project suggested to involve pre-primary kids in the artwork for the logo, we were a bit puzzled. First of all, it was about trying to make the concepts of virtual, connection and different cultures simple for such small kids while making these concepts real and touchable for them.



Our teachers came up with the story of “Lucy and the String” by Vanessa Roeder, an American writer and illustrator for kids. The book is a sweet and silly tale of unexpected friendship between a girl and the bear she finds at the end of a string. When Lucy spots a string, she can’t help but give it a yank, and before she knows it, she meets Hank! But this bear isn’t quite sure what to make of Lucy, especially because the string is attached to his pants, and they’re unraveling fast! Now Lucy must dream up the perfect solution to Hank’s missing pants, and hopefully win this dubious bear’s heart along the way.

We thought this would have been the ideal storytelling in our circletime because it made the concept of connection at a right distance clear through a series of experiments, which are the core activities in a pre-primary school. Moreover, the string could have been seen and touched for real, used to weave the artwork project and become the virtual connection in case of a lockdown.



The kids loved the story of this special friendship. We read it in Italian, then in English. We acted out all the onomatopoeic sounds, which were the common language between Lucy and the bear, we tried to understand the concepts of far and near and of being virtually near thanks to the string.

We then thought about the different natures of Lucy and the bear and what they had in common. So the values underlying our Virtuously Virtually project became clear: different languages, different clothes, possibly different food, different habits, different opinions about being close and far but the same wish to get to know each other and become friends. We also



Scuola Infanzia
P. A. Comolli dal 1907

thought about the paths to be taken to get near to the others: so we could travel by balloon, trains, cars, or we could build bridges and tunnels and for sure we had to find stopovers to rest and relax and listen.

We now had all the elements to create an artwork. All the three groups involved had one common tool: the string.

These are their final logos representing each group different ideas and strategies:



Tunnels and bridges



Means of transport and feelings

Different cultures shining in stars



Though we knew the pictures of these 3D logos would have been difficult to use as a final logo for the contest, we thought the experience of really touching the connections behind the concepts was the only way such intellectual concepts could be transformed into real images.

Kids enjoyed this experience a lot and they got so affectionate to Lucy and the bear that the characters became the guiding line of the pedagogical project for this second part of the year.

And last but not least they have another string for their bow of experiences.



Article written by Silvia Zaffino Scuola
dell'Infanzia P.A. Comolli – Cagno – IC
Valmorea – ITALY