



...and then it happened
...i don't know how!



Comune
di Modena

Villaggio Giardino Preschool
5 years old class

Teacher
Alice Angeli



Getting back from summer vacation, talking...

FEDERICO: Years help us grow better; time makes us grow larger, but also older.

BIANCA M.: years have gone by eh...

CAMILLA: and years make us grow up. **But it's a funny thing that when we grow up we know how to do stuff and when we were little we didn't.**

ELIA: now that I'm older i have a bigger bike.

MARCELLO: when we were little we had a bike with little wheels, now we don't!

CAMILLA: they taught us!

ANNAPAOLA: I don't know how to go without wheels yet.

FRANCESCO G.: I too still use them.

SIMONE: **We are not all the same!**

Knowing how to listen to ourselves

After the effort of a run around the school, Aurora (who after a bit stopped running) complains about the fatigue:

ARIANNA: we have worked up bodys

FRANCESCO L.: we have to get the energy out of our systems. I too was tired, but i didn't stop.

MARCELLO: because legs have muscles, like the rest of the body. You have to work out, then the legs get used to it. **If you try enough times you can do it**, like putting on a pair of hard shoes... the same goes for the legs.



FEDERICO: when you get ripped, muscles become stronger and then you never get tired and **if you never get tired, you like it.**

ELENA: day by day you do it and you can succeed. It's not after a day that you can learn.... it takes some days...

Talking about ourselves

One Monday Nicholas, a usually quiet and reserved kid, talks about himself in the circle.

NICHOLAS: I have something to say... in the past few days I have learnt how to ride my bike without little wheels. They had told me "the right foot goes on first, then you push with the left one and you go fast" and then it happened that I put the left foot on the pedal and I kept my balance.

CAMILLA: I, to learn how to go on a bike when I was little, they had taken away the little wheels. When I used it I was scared but Daddy held me, then I fell and I was scared.

SIMONE: **but falling you learn!**



First rides inside the school

ARIANNA: it's fun but the bike is too small and my knees bump into the handlebars...
I had an idea! I can open my legs!
Sometimes I can't turn, the bike stops me...
the little wheels only turn one way.



MARCELLO: that's why I only go on one: when i
turn on this side all the weight goes on this side
and the wheel turns.

At the time of Welcoming Caterina e Kristine mock Aurora because she brought a bike with little wheels to school.

AURORA: i was sad beacuse Caterina e Kristine mocked me for my wheels.

CATERINA: it's not true we mocked you, we just asked you why you had little wheels.

KRISTINE: I saw her bike and asked her “why do you still use the little wheels?”

CAMILLA: it's not for little kids (using little wheels)! It's that someone doesn't learn beacuse in that moment they can't learn... like Annapaola has very busy parents that can't teach her how to go without wheels yet



Tips, support, suggestion

CATERINA: you have to do it like this Mati! Put one foot on the pedal that is up and only push with the other one.

SEBASTIANO: look at what i do instead *(he pushes with both feet multiple times and then starts to ride)*

CATERINA: the pedals need to be one up and one down and then you put your foot on the up one and you push.





**SEBASTIANO: wait Mati,
I'll hold your balance**

Motivation and determination

INSEGNANTE: wow guys, it looks like a very hard route!

GAIA: **I can't do it.** ELIA: **I'll try!**

TEACHER: How is it going?

Can you do it?

ELIA: i can't! TEACHER: why?

ELIA: because they are too close together, wait! I'll separate them up!

(Elia separates the wood logs used to create the route)

ELIA: **it's so much fun!**

ANNAPAOLA: I don't like it very much because i fall down.

TEACHER: and then why do you keep trying?

ANNAPAOLA: Perché vorrei imparare





ELENA: it's not going very good for me... i always fall down!
When i turn my bike like it almost falls and Fede told me to stabilize my wheels.

ANGIE: she can try it like this... instead of braking **she can turn a little less**

CAMILLA: maybe you are going **too fast**

FEDERICO: maybe the turns are too "turn-y" and she doesn't want to go on them and she falls.

Uphill ...

ARIANNA: I feel like I'm using up all my strength because **going uphill makes me fall back downhill** and you have to gain a lot of speed and I can because I use my muscles and I succeed.



FRANCESCO L.: when you go uphill if you don't have enough speed you go back.
CAMILLA: it happened to me yesterday on a little hill and I fell at the end, but the fall was soft. When I got back on **the bike it kept stopping and going back** and then I fell, I fell because near there was the sidewalk.

... and downhill

SEBASTIANO: because it had the wheels that went on even without pedals
because it was the earth that was making it go downhill: you can ride or not
because **the decline makes the wheels go by themselves**



ANNAPAOLA: because the mountain is steep and the bike can go by itself.

FEDERICO: when you push yourself the speed... FRANCESCO L.: increases! When there are downhill routes you go on, then the bike goes alone.

FEDERICO: **with the speed of the muscles the bike goes without riding.**



ELIA: Francesco **if you brake too much** going downhill, you catapult yourself! Because the front wheel stops suddenly and **the bike catapults itself**.

CAMILLA: sometimes it happens that if you brake too hard **the back wheel comes up...** or it happens in the declines too steep.

FRANCESCO L.: if you are right back here (*on the saddle*) and not here in front, you won't catapult yourself. Because if **the weight is back**, you give your weight to the back wheel and the back wheel becomes heavier

Hypothesis, tests and observations

We tried to roll down an inclined bench some objects found in the classrom and then again down a small hill.

ELIA: the cube was slower.

FRANCESCO L.: the squares are slow, the cirles are faster.

ARIANNA: the cube only rolls on one side and the bobbin rolls on all sides.

ARIANNA: the cube slips because it has the points (*corner*) that stop it.

ELIA: does it have suction cups?

(talking about the mat that doesn't slide down)...the rough texture sticks to the ground.

CAMILLA: in my opinion none of this objects will work on the grass.





TOY CAR

ELIA: it stopped because there is a patch of tall grass.

AURORA: maybe Mati had to push a little harder.

WOODEN CUBE

ELENA: it stopped because it has corners.

BIANCA: the grass is like small thread.

FRANCESCO L.: and the threads block it.

ON THE GRASS GOING DOWNHILL...

ELIA: because they have wheels and roll... the circular things roll down by themselves going downhill

Problem solving

Federico: the chain has fallen and the chain makes the bike go... so it's a problem

CAMILLA: maybe we have to put it down first

FEDERICO: no up! Or it will fall right away!

ELENA: the small wheel is connected to the bigger one... maybe if you try to hold it up for half the time it goes

ARIANNA: but isn't it that if you move the pedal up and down a bit it works again?





ELENA: if you try to turn the big wheel that is linked to the pedal maybe it straightens out
ARIANNA: let's try to turn this wheel back here, maybe it gains a bit of chain back.

ELENA: let's watch how our friends' are made so we can get how it works.

FEDERICO: first let's pick up this chain here

SEBASTIANO: give a bit of chain it's too short!



ARIANNA: at first i felt that i could do it, but then i tried and i couldn't do it.
Now I'm a little bit scared.

CAMILLA: if you go slowly everything works out and you don't fall down
(after having fallen down multiple times)

FEDERICO: the jump scared me too because it boostes you up a little, and when
you get boosted it makes you fall.







SEBASTIANO:
humans and bicycles
can go, but no bikes.
Let's go!

CAMILLA: on the road cars have white lines they can't cross.

ARIANNA: we can say that in the garden near that line of trees, some bikes can go way way and on the other side bikes go the opposite way.

ELIA: we can make believe that they are lines.

FRANCESCO L.: we need to line up, not be in a pile.

ARIANNA: and if we meet someone we can divide up in two groups and let them pass in the center.

ELENA: like we meet someone and we could stop and make room for them. We made a route all by ourselves.

SEBASTIANO: we did not crash, we just crossed.



First time out of the school all together

ANNAPAOLA: *(those with the small wheels)* we put them in front and we follow and we also go a little bit slower

CAMILLA: they go slower and **keep the group together**

FRANCESCO L.: we need to stick close, but if we bump with our front tire with the back tire of the kid in front than we do like that game that goes din – din – din *(domino pices falling)*

**Remember we are a team!
Francesco L.: and teams stick together!**



FEDERICO: we also had the experience of the jams, that we piled up and we fell

MATILDE: i had lots of fun because i was the boss of the bikes and i liked it
(Matilde uses little wheels on her bike)

FRANCESCO L.: i had lots of fun going all together because you are my best friends ... boys and girls.



**We wanted the bike...
...let's keep riding!**

