

A group of children in colorful jackets are standing in a circle on a grassy field. Long shadows are cast across the grass, suggesting it is either early morning or late afternoon. The scene is bright and sunny.

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES



**Comune
di Modena**

Villaggio Zeta Preschool
5 years old class

Teacher
Alessandra Scarselli



INTRODUCTION

When we went to Parco Amendola for a little fieldtrip, we had the idea to explore all the parks of the city that we could reach by walking from the school. So we explored other parks (Parco della Resistenza, Giardini Ducali Estensi) and we chose with the children **one particular aspect for each park** that made it unique and unforgettable.

During a meeting, we shared this idea to the parents and we invited them to go to these parks with their families, in order to favour a dynamic sharing of experiences and to raise awareness regarding the protection and the respect for the natural and urban environment.



A large, leafless tree with yellow catkins stands in the foreground of a park. The tree's branches are dark and spread out, with many small, yellow, drooping catkins. The ground is a green lawn with some shadows from the tree. In the background, there are other trees and a clear blue sky. The text "PARCO AMENDOLA" is overlaid in yellow.

PARCO AMENDOLA

CONVERSATION BEFORE THE TRIP TO PARCO AMENDOLA:

TEACHER: What do you think we will find in Parco Amendola?

ANNA: a lot of grass with many flowers

DANIELE: some leaves, trees and a playground

VIOLA: a little lake with turtles

ELIA: and another little lake with many ducks

MARTINA: a tree with a lot of branches that we can play with, if we can catch them

RIKI L: a flower, a bush with snails

VIKTORIA: a little lake with ducks

DAVIDE: trees and leaves

ARIANNA: a lot of white daises

NATALE: there will be big fishes with a moustache that look almost like a catfish

DARIA: we could find a slide, a lot of swings, both for young and for big children and a little train

GABRIELE: a beautiful playground

AURORA: a lot of leaves and daises

ETTORE: chestnuts

GIULIA: maybe some rocks

RIKI T: white daises, leaves and maybe also some pinecones and little branches that we can use to build things at school

ALBA: a little lake with the ducks and high hills

MATTEO: leaves, grass and trees

ARLINDA: we could have a picnic with fruit and a basket

ZAKARIA: big fishes

LEO: a little lake with a lot of turtles and some fishes... maybe also bushes with blackberries and blueberries.



Parco Amendola becomes the **park of “ROLLING”** for our class, because on the green hills we could:

- Rolling left
- Fish rolling
- Dance rolling
- Belly rolling
- Walking on the hill
- Rolling like a ball
- Zig-zag rolling
- Rolling as fast as a rocket
- Rolling like when I'm in bed
- Rolling in a beautiful world
- Rolling super mega fast
- Rolling like a wolf
- Rolling slowly
- Rolling as fast as a lightning



A large, spreading tree with many thin branches and small, light-colored blossoms stands in the center of a grassy park. In the foreground, a child wearing a blue jacket and a grey hat stands on a dirt path, looking towards the tree. The background shows a line of trees and a building in the distance under an overcast sky.

PARCO DELLA RESISTENZA



Parco della Resistenza – also called “country” as there are vine plants, many types of trees, a little lake and many ditches – became the **park of “I JUMP AS...”** for our class:

- A ballerina
- A octopus
- A ninja-turtle
- A fish
- As rolling
- Flying jump
- Spiderman
- A flip
- Jump high
- A robot
- Long jump
- A dolphin
- A rabbit
- Like when we jump on trees
- A lion
- A Barbie
- A kangaroo
- A house
- A little violet

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The tricolour hill
(like the Italian flag)







PARCO DEI GIARDINI DUCALI (Ducal Gardens)



We went to the park taking with us a moleskine-like notebook and a pencil, to become artists for a day.

We sat in front of the Little Palace to make a life drawing of it, and we listened to the story of Estense family, the Dukes of our city in the past.

Furthermore, teacher Giulia told us a memory from her past: the lions LEO and LEA used to live in a cage in this park, where Giulia used to go often with her grandparents when she was a child.

For our class this park became
the **park of LEO and LEA**







A wide-angle photograph of a grassy field with several children playing. The field is green with small white flowers. In the background, there is a line of trees and a blue sky with white clouds. The text 'PARCO ENZO FERRARI' is overlaid in large yellow letters with a purple outline at the bottom of the image.

PARCO ENZO FERRARI



When we were at Parco Enzo Ferrari we had the idea to donate something, a memory.

After a cathartic running down the big hill, we created sculptures with clay, leaves, little branches and other natural materials, that we left in the park in secret places that everyone chose.

TRACES... that later on we could go and search for...

For our class Parco Ferrari became
the **park of gift-memories**

WORKING WITH CLAY AND NATURAL MATERIALS



CREATING MEMORIES





HIDING OUR «MEMORIES» IN THE PARK







PARCO BERLINGUER



In Parco Berlinguer we found a creative game in the playground, that we had never experienced before: the “pulley”!
Almost everyone challenged himself on the pulley, with very high adrenaline!!

For our class Parco Berlinguer became
the **park of the pulley**



FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Children experiences should not be only indoor but get stimulated and enriched going outdoor.

The trips to the parks had a very positive feedback: they were lived very playfully, but the group could also reflect on the importance of **green areas** (and on how to behave to respect and protect them); we had to find **reference points** in order to find our way to the parks (for example: the patisserie, the house with the dog, “my house is close to here” ...), so we approached **orienteering** in urban spaces and in our neighbourhood; furthermore we learnt to take the **bus** and walk through the city.

