



**CORPO  
EUROPEO  
DI SOLIDARIETÀ**

## IL PAPAVERO

Il Papavero is an association located in the city of **Altamura**, province of Bari, that operates as a kindergarten where it promotes Waldorf education, a method caring for the wellness of children. The aim is to spread Waldorf education reaching also the families through the experiences made by their children in the kindergarten. Children are invited to free play with simple toys made by natural materials that motivates their imagination. They do art laboratories (painting, singing, sewing). There is an outdoor space with a playground and the possibility to do gardening and planting activities. Groups are heterogeneous: older look after younger and younger learn imitating older. Il Papavero arises from the need to offer and suggest to the families of our community an alternative approach to education and pedagogy, different from the traditional one, drawing inspiration mainly by Waldorf method, a type of education attentive to enhance the uniqueness of every child. We strongly believe that in preschool age children don't need to be driven by intellect, indeed they learn with art, handwork, tales and much healthy free play, even outdoor.

Our organization and our kindergarten are born from the meeting of two young women, a toy designer and a Waldorf teacher. They together decide to invest in their motherland, South Italy area, still reluctant to alternative ways of life and strongly linked to traditions.



Il Papavero operates in Altamura since 2020 with the specific intent of guaranteeing its younger guests between 3 and 6 years of age, an environment that favors their general well-being to the maximum degree, thanks also to the inspiration of **Steiner's pedagogy** as an added value to be introduced into the relationship and path between parents and children. Il Papavero has as its priority precisely to create a place, both

physical and social, in which the creation of links, between team operators, families and children, around the concept of creating an educating community, based on the principles of the Waldorf schools but also with a creative approach contaminated by traditional

elements, also typical of the local culture. This environment therefore fits well with the multicultural approach mentioned in the volunteers ESC can contribute to the construction of this community, broadening its horizons more and more from many points of view, cultural, linguistic, but also with respect to new pedagogical and management methods of children's attention. On the other hand, volunteers can also be invested in the same environment in which they are insert all the actors of the Poppy community, entering into a relationship and connection with the philosophy that obtains the pedagogical path and learn alternative methodologies to approach the world of children, just in case should continue on a professional path in this area in the future. Also the volunteer of the European Corps of Solidarity will be able to fully express the mission of the program, making explicit the value of solidarity with respect to the objective higher than the activities he will carry out on a daily basis, using an educational method that is usually the



prerogative of upper-middle social classes and putting it at the service of all. Doing business with Il Papavero therefore means contributing to construction of a social place, where families can evolve both within their own nucleus and outside, such as main cell of the community, active and builder of culture and education.

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In the morning, from Monday to Friday, a heterogeneous group (ages 3 to 6) of girls and boys. Every day the songs and the roundabouts in the morning are repeated, time for free play, both outdoors and inside and at the end of the day the story of a fairy tale or the reading of a book. Instead, the activity changes every day, yes they offer artistic and manual activities that allow the child's interiority to be expressed, leaving aside the intellect at least during the preschool age. In the afternoons and Saturday mornings the Poppy opens for free play offering activities structured, the children who attend the Poppy during the afternoon and Saturday openings are children and girls from 3 to 12 years old, together they deeply experience the sociality and sharing of space of the toy library dedicated to them, both inside and outside.

Il Papavero will let the volunteer support the educator in the activity, preparing the teaching aids, setting up the dedicated spaces, dealing with photographic documentation and related marketing. When you don't propose the activity, the volunteer will support the educator in the processes of care and observation of the children during the time dedicated to free play.

After a first phase of acclimatization that serves both parties to get to know each other (the volunteer to understand how can adapt his skills to the new work and cultural context, and to the Association to understand how to employ the potential of the young person) taking into account the training objectives of the learning agreement, the volunteer

will support the operators in carrying out all the planned activities and will be encouraged to propose during the project independently an activity. In this case, the volunteer will be asked to integrate the reading activities provided, for for example, proposing stories and songs in the language, or as regards the artistic and manual workshops, to the volunteer it will be suggested to participate by drawing on skills related to one's tastes, abilities and interests.

Below is a example of a typical day:

8: 30/9: 30 opening and preparation of the environment and materials useful for carrying out the activity / reception of the child

9: 30/10: 30 warming up: manipulation of the wax to warm the hands, good morning songs, rounds

10: 30/11: 00 snack, bathroom

11: 00/12: 00 activities of the day (for example: Monday kneading, Tuesday weaving, Wednesday gardening, Thursday painting, Friday music)

12: 00/13: 00 free play indoors or in the garden

13: 00/13: 30 children go out

13: 30/14: 00 cleaning and closing

Volunteers will be involved in all the activities foreseen by the structure, also and above all those of internal management and team organization, such as the weekly organizational meetings scheduled for Friday afternoon. In weekly scheduling of the activity for the volunteers hours are provided for the conception and realization of their own personal project or activity.

See pictures: [shorturl.at/kIT68](https://shorturl.at/kIT68)

## PROFILE

Volunteers should have a big interest and some experience in working with children, openness to new cultures and to share their own culture. They should have some specific skills (playing some instruments, for example) which may contribute to the activities of the organization. Some basic knowledge of the Italian language would be necessary to communicate with children. Preferred age: 22-28.



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