Learning Communities

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EDUCATIONAL ITALIAN SISTEM

- SPRING 0 – 3 YEARS NO OBBLIGATORY
- PRESCHOOL 3 – 6 YEARS NO OBBLIGATORY
- PRIMARY 6 – 10 YEARS OBBLIGATORY
- SECUNDARY I LEVEL 11 – 14 YEARS OBBLIGATORY
- SECUNDARY II LEVEL 14 – 16 YEARS OBBLIGATORY
- SECUNDARY III LEVEL 17 – 19 YEARS NO OBBLIGATORY

8
7
3
9
5
4
6
2
1
10

PUT IN COMMUNICATION PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO GIVE EACH ONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENDING THE CYCLE OF STUDIES

- WE HAVE TO SUPPORT AL THE CHILDREN BUT WE HAVE TO ACCOMPANY AND SUPPORT FAMILIES IN THEIR PROBLEM
- NO WORK
- FATHER IN JAIL (AND MOTHER)
- ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DISAVANTAGE
- DRUGS - SCAMPIA

- **Learning community is a project of transformation of schools with the objective of improving students' attainment and school atmosphere**

Scientific bases: International Scientific Community

a. **SOCIAL THEORY**.
Interdisciplinarity
a. PRACTICE. Effective and successful Practices
a. RESEARCH. What works/ what does not work in education

THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

1. Raising awareness
2. Decision-making
3. Dream
4. Selection of priorities
5. Planning
6. Monitoring

1. Raising Awareness

- Families, teaching, staff, administrators, students, volunteers, community members are trained with the basic principles of the project. A collective reflection about the current situation and what would be necessary to be done in order to transform the center into a Learning Community.

2. Decision-making

- Agreement among the teaching staff
- Agreement within the school principal's team
- Approved by the school board
- Approved by the majority of the assembly organized by the association of the students' family members
- Consensus among the community
- Administration support

3. Dream

- More mathematics
- Workshops and trips
- A swimming pool
- More courses after graduation
- A football camp

- More computers
- Less fights
- A cleaner school
- More books
- A farm
- More English

4. Selection of priorities

- The context is analyzed and the priority areas are selected.
- Reality is balanced with the dream and steps towards it are defined.

5. PLANIFICATION

- Creation of the mixed committees, formed by professionals and families (and sometimes students), in relation with the priorities.

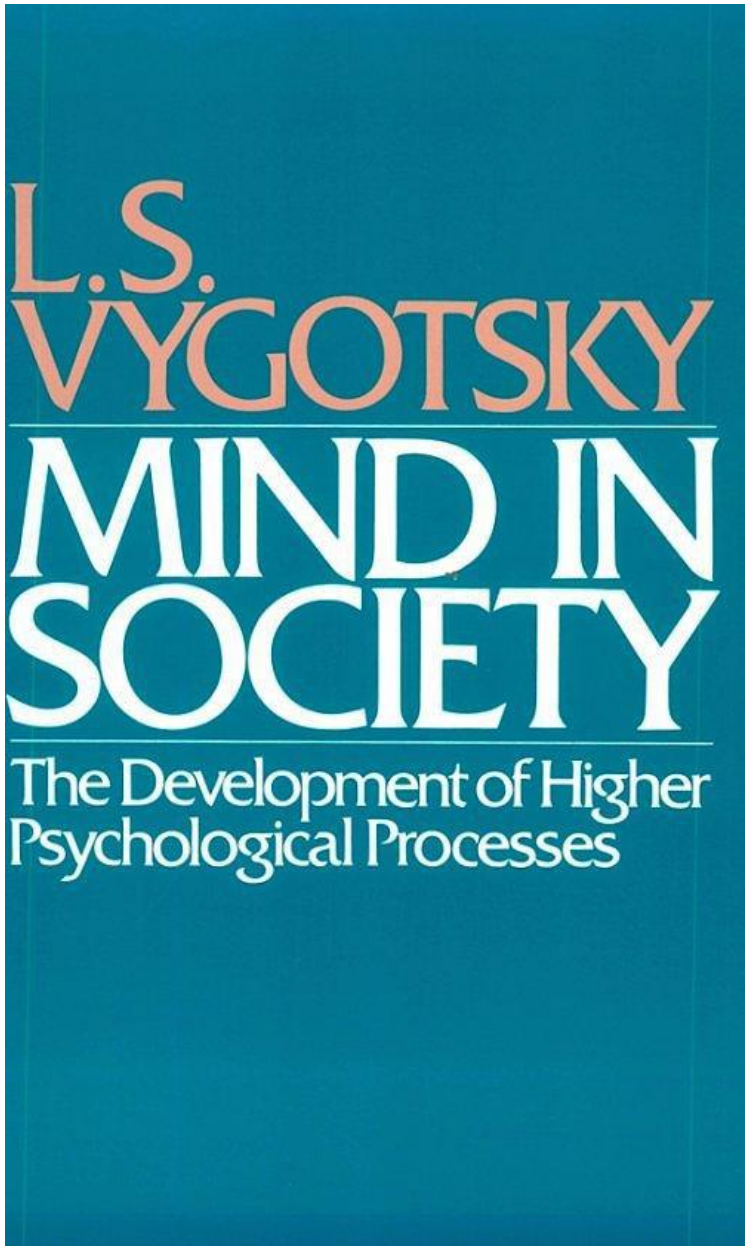
SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS IN LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Successful educational actions in the Learning Communities

- INTERACTIVE GROUPS
- FAMILY EDUCATION
- TUTORED LIBRARY
- MIXED COMMITTEES

INTERACTIVE GROUPS

- **What are they?** The children do their work while organised into heterogeneous groups, with one adult in each group. Volunteers who are very different among them: family members, former students, university students, friends, and people from the neighbourhood, etc. We mix with the children and we help them with their learning.



- ZDP: distance between what a person can do individually, and what they can do with others

(mediated by language)

INTERACTIVE GROUPS:
How are they organised?

Activity 1

- I like IG's because we work more.
- Valentín, aged 10

Activity 2

- I prefer the IG's because then we work better together. We have a better time. **Lorena, aged 10**

All of the children do the same activities

- They learn more and are more motivated
- They behave better
- They help each other
- They acquire confidence to express themselves
- Diversity within the school is increased

Family Readers

"Before there were things that I didn't know, but ***since I've been coming to read with them, when we are doing homework at home, I know how to help them.*** *Because before there were things that I didn't even understand. Sometimes they didn't do their homework because I couldn't help them, but now, they do them because I'm in the classroom with them".* (Volunteer mother)

Family Education

- **Language**
- **Literacy**
- **TIC**
- **Literary gatherings**
- **Driving licence lessons**

Democratic organisation

Formed by volunteers, family members, teachers, community representatives, etc.

- Volunteers
- Family members
- Learning
- Infrastructure

Types of family and community participation

1. INFORMATIVE	
2. CONSULTIVE	Being consulted in decision-making processes.
3. DECISORY	**Participation in decision-making processes**
4. EVALUATIVE	Participation in both **student and school evaluation**.
5. EDUCATIVE	Participation in **students' learning during school hours and after school**.

Cooperative of services

AGE CAMPANIA – SEZIONE DI SCAMPIA

- *Education needs of technical, scientific, and professional development as much as it needs of dreams and utopia*

  Paulo Freire

- *“Last year it was impossible to bring him, “the teacher punishes me”, “the teacher punishes me”, no way of getting him into school, and now it’s 8 and he’s already waken up (…) it’s unbelievable, and in learning, before it’s not that he was dumb, but I’ve noticed great improvement”* (LUCA’s mother)

“We’d like that the same that has been achieved in the school, is done now in the entire neighborhood”