



## School Equity Best Practice

**Title: THE VEGETABLE GARDEN**

**Equity dimension:**

- Fairness    Inclusion    Access    Opportunities  
 Personalised learning    Personal and social development

**Subject:**

*Sen students*

**Target groups:**

- Early Years    Primary education    Lower secondary education  
 Upper secondary education    Vocational Training    Other

**Source:**

*Istituto Comprensivo "A. Casati" - Muggiò (MB) Italy*  
<http://www.ic-casati.gov.it>

"Alfonso Casati Comprehensive School" is a group of schools which includes two pre-primary, two primary and one lower-secondary school for a total of about 1200 pupils; services such as school lunch and afternoon clubs are in high demand.

The effective participation of the different cultural associations that are present in the area, together with a strong cooperation between school and local authorities, allows the constitution of a relevant supporting net. Parents take part to the school life through the School board as well as through a special Parents Committee. The school aims to promote personal and cultural success of every single student through the development of his/her personal interests and talents, in order to help them get social and relational competences and finally to foster their cultural literacy.

**Description:**

The activities include taking care of the vegetable garden through the ordinary maintenance as well as the new planting, harvesting vegetables and fruits (blackberry, pear, grapes, etc.) and cooking different types of dishes with the products of the vegetable garden. The activities include also the decoration of part of the school.

**Beneficiaries**

The project involves the students of the first year of the lower secondary school, the sen students of the three years, the teachers of science, the sen teachers, the teachers of Art and Technology, some volunteers.

**Goals**

The project is focused on the study of the plant life and it is mainly based on active methodologies. Hence the sen students (in organized groups throughout the entire year) can improve their skills (soft skills, knowledge in gardening, etc.) by learning the practices of planting, harvesting and cooking.

**Methodology:**

**Project leader: Daniela Del Grande** (for the sen teachers), **Sara Marogna** (for the science teachers).

**Spaces:**

The vegetable garden and the orchard in the Urbani school, the scientific lab, the alternative teaching zones and other open spaces (green spaces, courtyards...) in the school.

<b>N°</b>	<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Supervisor</b>	<b>Period of time</b>
	Harvest of the vegetables (sen students).	Sen teachers	September
	Extirpation of the weeds, harvest of the autumnal vegetables for the cooking lab, preparation of the soil for the winter (sen students).	Sen teachers and volunteers.	October
1	The students, in small groups, together with the volunteers, plant different seeds in the scientific lab in dedicated containers. The containers are kept in two greenhouses in the vegetable garden.	Sen teachers and volunteers.	February/March
2	The students plant the little young plants in the vegetable garden. The volunteers help them together with	Sen teachers	Spring

	the sen teachers.		
3	All the first years students study science in the vegetable garden, they observe both the little plants and the different types of seeds, they write a notebook with all their drawings and notes.	Science teachers and Sen teachers.	May
4	The sen students take care of the vegetable garden (water the plants and other activities).	Sen teachers	All the year.

### Resources:

**Human resources:** sen teachers, science teachers, other teachers, volunteers.

### Technical resources and materials:

Scientific instruments. Instruments for gardening. Creative and artistic materials.

### Outcomes:

The pupils learn the principals aspects of the vegetable world through the direct observation; they become little gardeners, they can plant different types of seeds, they can cook the vegetables or fruits and they take care of other livings. This project is a good opportunity for the sen students to work with their classmates, with specific roles during the three years of school, they can improve their soft skills and their competence in different activities that could be also potentially useful for choosing a job in their future.

**Interview:** [Vegetable Garden Casati Italy.m4v](#)