

## The Hundred Languages of Childhood

The child  
is made of one hundred.  
The child has  
A hundred languages  
A hundred hands  
A hundred thoughts  
A hundred ways of thinking  
Of playing, of speaking.  
A hundred always a hundred  
Ways of listening of marveling of loving  
A hundred joys  
For singing and understanding  
A hundred worlds  
To discover  
A hundred worlds  
To invent  
A hundred worlds  
To dream  
The child has  
A hundred languages  
(and a hundred hundred hundred more)  
But they steal ninety-nine.  
The school and the culture  
Separate the head from the body.  
They tell the child;  
To think without hands  
To do without head  
To listen and not to speak  
To understand without joy  
To love and to marvel  
Only at Easter and Christmas  
They tell the child:  
To discover the world already there  
And of the hundred  
They steal ninety-nine.  
They tell the child:  
That work and play  
Reality and fantasy  
Science and imagination  
Sky and earth  
Reason and dream  
Are things  
That do not belong together  
And thus they tell the child  
That the hundred is not there  
The child says: NO WAY the hundred is there--

Loris Malaguzzi  
Founder of the Reggio Emilia Approach