

BLA BLA JOURNAL-ITALY JANUARY 2017

(in the picture the Mayor of the town)



The Town Councils of Girls and Boys were born in 1979, the international year of childhood. In Italy the first Town Councils were born as voluntary acts of Mayors who have accepted the

invitation of the great cities of the world in Florence. From it sprang a valuable job indication to form the Committee for the welfare of children chaired by the Mayor and composed of all departments and services of the municipalities, in different ways for them (education, social activities, municipal police, green public, etc.), and the institutions, the most significant agencies and associations working in the field (Office for Education, UNICEF, etc.). A first important base to support legislation to these new ideas and these intentions was provided by the International Convention of the Rights of the Child, adopted on November 20, 1989.

In our city this beautiful adventure has begun for many years and also all the boys and girls of our school are involved.

The lines and the contents of this "Charter of Town Councils" are summarized in the list of "what we want" and "what we do not want"

What we want

- The Town Councils need to deal with and groped to solve the problems of children; make visible and to understand the needs of young adults; learn how to work with adults; prepare children to be citizens.
- It's important that the representatives of the children are in contact with: those who have delegated them, maintaining various communication channels, both for advice, both to inform them of the decisions taken; adults (the City Council and not).
- The needs of each age group must be represented.
- All the boys of a city can become representatives, by presenting lists or no lists; the important thing is that there is a program that can be recognized.
- The duration may vary. Depending on the size of the city. We recommend a two-year assignment.
- Representatives may not be charged a second time.
- The representatives shall have a place where they can meet.
- It's important that adults help kids maintaining the role of expert facilitators.

What we do not want

- Contrasts between teens and adults.
- Jealousy among the representatives.
- Contrasts between majority and minority.
- Lack of respect for those who have difficulties of expression.
- Instrumentalisation by adults Municipal Councillors.
- Favoritism.
- Imitations of the ways of doing politics of the great.