



## The Look of Children of the Children at the World

### Instructions on the Field

**We do not need a professional video operator** to make good **videos**, and indeed the videos in this project are mainly, if not completely, **shot by children**.

Where professionals are present, or they are our operators, and follow a certain method, or we get along with them so that the approach is compatible with the project. The professionals make available the appropriate equipment and supervise the shooting, in some cases they also completely or partially takes care of the post production, possibly together with the same children.

**These instructions** refer instead to those situations in which the creation of the video is superimposed on other activities, the most varied (school work of any kind, theatre, environmental education, philosophy, mathematics, archeology, etc.) and it is not possible, for matters of organization, budget or other, the intervention of a video expert. They are given to **make the group able to make their own shootings, which will then be sent to the editorial staff of Terra Insieme for editing.**

### Equipment:

A **tripod is needed with a video head** (suitable for pan takes) to make "perfect" basic shots, and **two "cameras" at least**, to film possibly in **high definition** in the **16: 9 format** (that of all current televisions). One machine is for the main shooting and the other for shooting, in some moments, the children themselves who make the shoot, so that everyone see that the video was made by them.

Today for videos solid state memories are used, so that the "cameras" can be of different types but, for reasons of **ergonomics, versatility**, and also because of the **attitude** that the different means induce in children, some are preferable, in our experience, with respect to others.

The following indications are therefore motivated, even if not binding. It is not a matter of adapting anyhow, but of understanding the meaning of the work and, in any case, those who assume the task of coordinating the creation of the videos on the field **can always count on our assistance**, even from far.

**Shooting** mostly on the tripod therefore, **not rickety and without unnecessary moves, short** (that is, if nothing important happens, a few seconds!), **changing the point of view each time** (the same subject from the right and from the left, from above and from below, from far and near, etc.). **Do not use the zoom when shooting**, if you do not know exactly what you are doing (pointing out, "generalize" moving away; one movement and never back and forth, the annoying "ping pong" effect!) Zoom is to be used **before the shots** to set up each shot and then **you do not touch it anymore** until the next cut. Doing so, you cannot be wrong!

**Tools for making video which can be used** (here we refer to those that are on the market today, but if someone has **old tools** available, they can often be used and, if there are any doubts or questions, **contact** us without problems for seeing together how):

A **traditional video camera**, even if today is no longer "fashionable", to start is still the best tool. It matches very well with the tripod, it is very easy to use even for children, allows macro shots attached to the lens and telephotos even from far away, has a discreet sound with its **built-in microphone**.

Children like it and it induces attention and responsibility, even more if you can attach **headphones** to hear the voices (which unfortunately today is not given for models under a certain level of quality and price). A video camera allows easy and stable shooting even **by hand**, with one hand, high above the head or at ground level, thanks to the ergonomic handle and the **adjustable display** which, when turned, is also ideal for any "selfie".

**SLR cameras** today are much used to make videos professionally, but they are more complicated, delicate and expensive, less suitable to give directly into the hands of any child. They have a better **video quality** than amateur camcorders, thanks above all to the brightest and most defined **lenses**, but they are less versatile (for the macro and the telephoto the lens has to be changed, without a tripod they are not so handy and often have not an adjustable display) and sometimes to get a decent sound you need to connect an **external microphone** (in this case there is of course a headphone connection, which increases the game and the involvement). If someone has it and wish to use, it is generally advisable with children to keep it well planted on a **tripod**.

Even **compact photo cameras** can make videos in HD but, especially the so-called "bridge" (which mount lenses ranging from macro to super telephoto), have a motorized zoom whose noise, in quiet environments, will easily enter our videos, disturbing them. Only some, of superior quality, have a swiveling display, and all of them can easily be mounted on a tripod.

The **smartphones** are the tool to make video that today is used more, by all, unwary amateurs, children and young people, but also professionals (they are very comfortable to "take notes"). They often have a fair sound and the video quality, with a good light, can be noticeable, even if the very small lenses allow a limited use of the zoom, which is only digital (lower than an optical zoom). If our videos are not shot to be seen only on the phone itself, **they must be kept horizontal**, in a compatible format with the screen of a television or a computer. **To attach them to a tripod**, there are **accessories such as clips with a screw attachment**, which cost a few euros.

I put the phones back in this list, because in children they stimulate less the "game" of making the video, compared to other more "important" tools. However, they can act as an ideal, also because easily available, **second camera!**

The **tablets** have the advantage, compared to all other devices, to allow a very direct "live" view of what we are shooting, but given to their size and shape, they are particularly difficult to use by

hand. Also for them there are tripod adapters and in this case, even if not very versatile devices, they may be fine, especially as **second cameras**.

The **action cams** are fashionable, in some cases cheap and are quite easy to use. They can be easily mounted on **bicycles**, on the **helmet** with the **skateboard**, showing the world from perspectives until recently unthinkable for ordinary people. Used here and there, they can add movement and entertainment to our productions and make them even more interesting.

Many consider the **drones** tools for "specialists", but there are primary schools in which not only children use, but also **assemble them** in first person (those sold in **assembly box**, are of good quality and cost less). If someone has them available and knows how to use, or has the opportunity to try or have them "in tow", certainly they are not good for making a whole video, but interesting and **very impressive shots** probably yes.

**External audio recorders** - apart from a possible synchronization with the video, which requires however not only basic technical skills - can be used by anyone to **capture voices, sounds and noises**, to be put then in the video above the images, or just listen in audio, which is often much more interesting for children than is commonly believed. You can use, having it, a **digital recorder**, or much more simply **any mobile phone**, possibly choosing from the different **recording apps** available one that we like, with which we feel at ease.

From one device to another, the **video and audio data** are then transferred via USB cable, physically moving memory cards (to be handled with care, when they are very small!) or wirelessly via **Bluetooth** (slowly and closely) or through the **cloud**, perhaps going around the world to communicate with those who are next to us. We have to remember that if via Google Drive, One Drive, DropBox and similar, we can transfer data in their original size, good also for a final editing, using Whatsapp or Facebook, the videos are compressed and reshaped and the quality highly falls. The machine destined to receive the data set will eventually be a **computer** on which the **editing software** is installed.

**These are preliminary instructions** we hope useful for those responsible for **coordinating video activities on the field**. **We are available for any clarification**, by phone, video call, email, Whatsapp or Welegram, Facebook or as you prefer...

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