

The Italian Association of Children's Writers (ICWA) was set up in 2012 and now counts more than one hundred Italian authors among its members.

It exists primarily to:

1. Promote Italian children's writing internationally, with a special emphasis on English-language countries to regain a prominent role in the sector.
2. Push back the misconception in our home country that children's writing is the poor cousin of adult literature.
3. Build a constructive line of dialogue with publishers to address any concerns over contractual terms and work together to promote and share a love of Italian children's writing.

Since its inception, ICWA has run a variety of initiatives championing books and reading. We reach out to libraries across Italy with a twice-yearly newsletter detailing our members' latest publications. We stage conferences and debates at all major book fairs and festivals. For four years now, we have been part of the "*Scampia Storytelling*" festival bringing authors and books into a socially deprived area. We work with reading promotion agencies like CEPELL, run by the Italian Education Ministry, staging workshops in schools around Italy. ICWA is a member of IBBY Italy. We have advocated for humanitarian cultural initiatives in countries in the southern hemisphere. As an association, we have published anthologies of stories around the theme of migration, for example *A braccia aperte*, stories of immigrant children (Mondadori) and *Noi siamo il futuro - we are the future* (Raffaello). ICWA runs specialist courses, for members and non-members, on editing, reading aloud, and translating for international markets. Our website www.icwa.it is regularly updated with articles and interviews featuring children's writing, authors and our work in schools.

The ICWA Board currently comprises (until December 2021):

- Fulvia Degl'Innocenti - Chairperson
- Chiara Segre - Deputy Chair and Media Relations
- Manuela Salvi - Treasurer
- Isabella Salmoirago - Institutional Programme Director
- Gabriele Clima - Libraries
- Livia Rocchi - Schools Programme Director