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## PAST AND PRESENT PERIOD OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

# **SYSTEM**

### Babanazarova Guzalkhon Odil qizi

Urganch State University Preschool student of the 4th level of education

**Abstract**: In this article, the third paragraph entitled "Past and Present of the Preschool Education System" provides general information about the topics discussed throughout the article. First, it illuminates the historical background of preschool education, explaining how it emerged in response to a changing social and economic landscape. Second, various approaches and theories that shaped the development of preschool education, such as Montessori, Froebel, and Reggio Emilia, are discussed. **Key words:** education, continuing education, preschool, innovation, spirituality, value, ethics, personality.

**Introduction**: Preschool education has evolved significantly throughout history, reflecting changing societal views and priorities. In the past, preschool education was often seen as a luxury reserved for the elite, with most children receiving little to no formal education before entering primary school. However, today, the importance of early childhood education in the development of cognitive, social and emotional development is increasing. As a result, efforts have been made to expand access to preschool programs through publicly funded initiatives and private institutions. Realizing that the foundations of lifelong learning are laid in the early years, the preschool education system plays a crucial role in shaping the trajectory of children's lives.

Main Section: Definition and Importance of Preschool Education: Preschool education refers to the period of early childhood education that occurs before a child enters formal schooling. This is a crucial stage in a child's development, as it lays the foundation for future education. Preschools aim to foster social, emotional and cognitive growth in children through a variety of activities, games and structured learning experiences. The importance of preschool education lies in its ability to develop important skills such as language, problem solving, self-management and cooperation. Research has shown that children who attend preschool have higher academic achievement and are more likely to succeed in school and later in life. In addition, preschool education also helps to reduce the

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achievement gap between children from different socio-economic backgrounds, making it an important component of the education system.

One of the most important changes in preschool education over time is the increased emphasis on play-based learning. In the past, preschool education focused primarily on academic preparation, with little emphasis on emotional and social development. However, modern research has highlighted the importance of play in developing cognitive, emotional and social skills. Play allows children to explore, experiment, solve problems, and interact with their peers, ultimately enhancing their learning experience. The current preschool education system recognizes the importance of play-based learning and incorporates it into the curriculum. In this way, children not only learn important academic concepts, but also develop important life skills that will benefit them throughout their academic journey and beyond. The historical basis of the preschool education system can be traced back to the beginning of the 19th century, when the German pedagogue Friedrich Froebel created the concept of kindergarten. Froebel believed that early childhood education was critical to the development of young children, and his kindergarten programs emphasized play-based learning and social interaction. This model quickly gained popularity in Europe and was later introduced in the United States by Elizabeth Peabody in the mid-1800s. However, it was not until the 20th century that preschool education began to become more formalized and expanded due to the growing importance of early childhood education for cognitive, social, and emotional development. Today, the preschool education system continues to develop, adapting to the changing needs and demands of society. Early educational practices for young children in ancient civilizations focused primarily on developing practical skills and instilling moral values. For example, in ancient Greece, children received an education at home that emphasized the skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic. The Athenian educational system, known as paideia, also focused on inculcating virtues such as courage, wisdom, and justice. In ancient China, Confucian principles played an important role in early education. Parents and teachers focused on raising children's feelings of respect, obedience and filial piety. Similarly, in ancient Egypt, young children were taught basic skills such as gardening, weaving, and pottery along with religious customs and values. These early educational practices are the basis for the child's all-round development and contribute to success in later life. In recent years, the importance of preschool education and its importance in shaping children's lives has been increasing. As a result, the modern preschool education system has evolved significantly to meet the changing needs of society. Today's preschools not only focus on providing a safe and nurturing environment for children, but also include educational curricula designed to encourage cognitive, social, and emotional development. In addition, the

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pre-school education system now focuses on inclusion of children of different nationalities, fostering a sense of multiculturalism and ensuring equality among all children. The evolution of the modern preschool system reflects the growing awareness that early learning plays a critical role in laying the foundation for a child's future success.

One of the most important contributions to the field of education was made by influential teachers such as Friedrich Froebel and Maria Montessori. German pedagogue Friedrich Froebel is known for creating the concept of kindergarten, which laid the foundation for the modern preschool education system. According to Froebel, early childhood education should be aimed at nurturing the child's natural curiosity and exploration. On the other hand, Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, developed the Montessori method, which emphasizes hands-on learning and self-directed activities. The Montessori approach has greatly influenced early childhood education because it encourages independence, creativity, and critical thinking skills. Both Froebel's and Montessori's contributions shaped and influenced preschool education, providing valuable insights into how children learn and grow during their formative years. In the study of the evolution of the preschool education system, it is necessary to study the changes in the curriculum, teaching methods and goals. In the past, preschool education was mainly based on play, and the main focus was on ensuring the social and emotional development of the child. However, in recent years, there has been a shift to a more academic approach, with structured lessons focused on cognitive skills and preparation for formal schooling. This change is partly the result of increasing pressure from parents and politicians to prepare children for the demands of primary education. However, some educators advocate a balance between play and academics, recognizing the importance of a holistic approach that includes cognitive, social and emotional development. After all, the ultimate goal of pre-school education is to foster the all-round development of young children, preparing them for a successful educational journey ahead. Over the years, the preschool education system has undergone significant changes to adapt to the ever-changing needs of children. One of the major recent developments is the recognition of the importance of play-based learning. Researchers and educators have realized that children learn best through play and hands-on activities. As a result, many preschools have shifted their focus from formal education to creating an environment that encourages inquiry and imagination. It is also striving to promote greater inclusiveness in pre-school education, ensuring that children from different backgrounds and abilities have equal opportunities. These changes not only enhanced the children's learning experience, but also enhanced their overall development and preparedness for future academic success. In addition, the integration of play-based learning has emerged as a valuable approach in preschool education.

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Researchers and educators recognize the importance of allowing young children to learn through play because it enhances their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. Play-based learning taps into children's natural curiosity and inquisitiveness, providing them with hands-on experiences that foster problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking. By incorporating play into the curriculum, children are encouraged to explore their surroundings and engage in outdoor activities that develop their natural talents and interests. This approach not only promotes a positive learning experience, but also creates a strong foundation for future academic success.

Examining the past and present of the preschool education system, it becomes clear that its global importance and the need for constant research and reform are paramount. Preschool education plays an important role in creating a solid foundation for children's all-round development and future success. In addition, in an increasingly interconnected world, countries around the world are recognizing the importance of early childhood education in addressing social, economic and educational disparities. However, many challenges remain, including inequity of access, insufficient funding, and poor quality. Therefore, continued research is needed to understand best practices, implement evidence-based policies, and ensure equal access to high-quality early childhood education for all children, regardless of socioeconomic background. Only through continuous research and reform can we transform the preschool system into a truly equitable, effective, and globally relevant institution.

conclusion , the past and present of the preschool education system demonstrate significant changes and improvements in early childhood education. The historical development of preschools can be traced back to the end of the 18th century, where their main purpose was childcare for working families. However, over the years, preschools have evolved to focus more on learning and cognitive development, as research has shown the importance of early childhood education in a child's overall development. Early educational practices for young children in ancient civilizations. Today, preschools play a critical role in preparing children for formal schooling, offering a wide range of enrichment activities, and encouraging social, emotional, and intellectual growth. With continued advances in early childhood education, it's safe to say that the future of preschools will continue to be built on these.

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