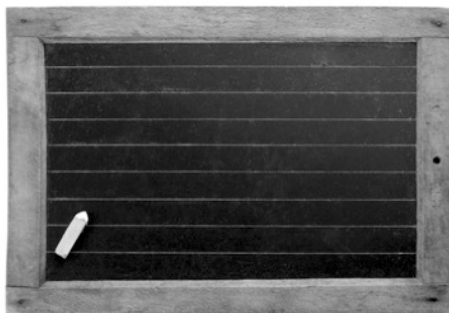


Read the text about early education and childcare in the UK in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. First decide whether the statements (1–7) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write the first 4 words of this sentence in the space provided. There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one. The first one (0) has been done for you.



## Early childhood education in the past

In 1815 in New Lanark in Scotland, Robert Owen, a self-made cotton manufacturer, set up a new factory complex. Many of his workers were destitute refugees, evicted from the Highlands of Scotland. Owen believed he should provide for their welfare. He built housing, social facilities, and a school. He recognised the childcare problems women workers faced, and he also provided a nursery. He genuinely liked children. He provided musicians and hired artists to paint murals, and even bought a baby alligator to stimulate the children's interest in natural history and geography.

He claimed that his manufacturing profits rose because the workforce was happy, and therefore productive. He argued, too, that in educating young children he was laying the grounds for future profitability. The New Lanark nursery attracted many visitors. People were not sure whether Owen was a crank or a prophet, but some of his ideas now sound curiously modern.

### Support for the poor

After New Lanark, the idea of combined nursery school and workplace nursery disappeared, along with many of the paternalistic ideas that Robert Owen had put forward.

In France, as early as 1848, there were proposals for a national system of *écoles maternelles* – nursery schools. In England, some enthusiasts, in particular a man called Samuel Wilderspin, put forward the idea of 'infant schools', on much narrower lines than the New Lanark nursery. But, in general, workers were simply regarded as factory fodder. Their welfare was of little concern to manufacturers or to Government.

Arguments carried on for more than 50 years over whether or not it was worth providing any education at all for the children of the poor. Finally, a bill was passed in 1872 to provide state

education. The school starting age was five – settled on only because Britain did not want to be outdone by her great European rivals, France and Austria, where the school starting age was six.

In fact, by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century more than half of all three-year-olds and most four-year-olds were crammed, alongside their older brothers and sisters, into tiered rows in cavernous primary schools in classes of 60 or 70 or more. School was free and it was better than children being left out on the streets whilst their mothers were working.

### **A role for women**

It was a battle to introduce state education for the poor and even more of a battle to (re)introduce the idea of nursery education. Yet the more well-to-do had long been interested in early education. Friedrich Froebel was a 19<sup>th</sup> century European educator whose ideas had become popular in liberal circles in England.

In 1874 a band of dedicated ladies formed the Froebel Society. They were inspired by his ideas of ‘mother made conscious’, a style of teaching which drew on a sentimentalised view of motherhood, but nevertheless offered women new role models. Froebel believed that children should have great freedom to play and to develop their innate spiritual responsiveness to nature, unobtrusively guided by a dedicated woman kindergarten teacher.

0	Owen did not provide accommodation for his employees.
1	Owen tried to help his female workforce.
2	Owen's concept was ahead of his time.
3	Company nursery schools remained popular throughout the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
4	Poor children were allowed to attend schools in the latter part of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
5	Schools provided a pleasant learning environment.
6	Women had to pay for their children's education.
7	Froebel thought that children should only be educated by mothers.

Early childhood education in the past

	T	F	First four words
0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>He built housing, social</i>
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Von der  
Lehrperson  
auszufüllen

richtig falsch

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

\_\_\_ P.