

HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (NURSERY) IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Pre-primary education is as old as the Western education. Nursery education started since 1842 by Thomas Birch Freeman and William De Graft when it was introduced into the church to cater for children during the missionary stay in Badagry. The Nigerian Educational System recognizes the importance of the little children that is why the National Policy on Education (2004) stated the purpose of this type of education. Although many of our schools today do not implement the policy to the later. This paper tends to investigate the historical beginning of nursery education in Nigeria and also treated the development policy of early childhood education from 1960 till date and the socio-political impact that gingered up activities towards a National Policy on Education as well as Guidelines, Training and Purposes of Early Childhood Education.