

Inventing kindergarten From Friedrich Fröbel (1852 -1782) to the Hebrew kindergarten

Yael Dayan

This article focuses on the relationship between the invention of Fröbel's kindergarten in Germany and the establishment of the Hebrew kindergarten in Palestine at the beginning of the twentieth century. It will review the pedagogical ideas of Friedrich Fröbel, the inventor of kindergarten and of a new profession – "kindergartener", and will outline two paths that led from the idea of kindergarten in Germany to the Hebrew kindergarten: the route from Berlin to Palestine and the East European route to Palestine. This article shows the impact of Fröbel's kindergarten on the Hebrew kindergarten, providing a foundation for kindergarten children of today, as well as the impact of Fröbel on early childhood teachers' training programs at colleges of education. The article highlights the message of the desire for democracy and liberation – Just as societies demanded liberation, the struggle for which reached a peak in "Spring of Nations" in 1848. Fröbel represented the rights of boys and girls to be liberated from the strict education of Puritan parents and educators by the invention of a new framework – the "Kindergarten" – which offers an alternative of play and freedom.