



FRIEDRICH FROEBEL
(1782–1852)

«For a solid 60 to 70 years, we had the greatest early childhood education in the world ... and then we consciously decided to stop.»

garden *of* children

HOW KINDERGARTEN CHANGED THE WORLD



IN TODAY'S SCHOOLS, creativity and individuality are being crushed by assessment. Free play is decreasing, replaced by toxic amounts of technology. A new generation of parents are concerned about what the future holds for their children.

The untold history of Kindergarten shows how we ended up here, and points the way forward. The series will examine how our view of children has changed, how American culture shaped our educational system, and how commercial pressures shape it today. The story of Froebel's Kindergarten serves as a lens on the women's movement, the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, the song "Happy Birthday," Helen Keller's career, the Bauhaus, and the latest cognitive science — a rich blend of the historic and the futuristic.

Series producers have assembled a comprehensive archive of research and a large network of experts. We'll meet parents and teachers, and get inside innovative schools throughout America. Each episode explores an aspect fundamental to early education, and addresses a challenge or concern that parents and educators face every day. By dividing the story by topic, diverse viewers can select how they enter the story. The episodes are self-contained, but together trace an arc of the last 200-years.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The forgotten story of US education and how public school got to where it is today
- Froebel's Kindergarten as stimulus for the Women's Movement, modern art, and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Buckminster Fuller, and Charles and Ray Eames
- The role of play, nature, brain science and assessment in education
- Are we preparing children for the jobs of the future?
- Can today's social problems be traced to early childhood education?

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Parents of young children
- Educators and other stakeholders in the future of education (business leaders, politicians)
- Members of the creative class (designers, architects, makers)
- Historians and history buffs





ABOUT THE PRODUCERS



The son of an early childhood teacher and a toymaker, **SCOTT BULTMAN** studied film at the Univ. of Michigan before taking over the family toy business in 1992. Introduced to the Froebel toys in 1996, his 22 years of research has built a large archive, a unique perspective, and a large network of experts.



The creative team of **MATCH FRAME CREATIVE** (John Pottenger and Jay Irwin), have a combined 35-plus years in the film and video industry, and have completed hundreds of corporate films and event-based documentaries. Together they produce videos for up-and-coming and Fortune 500 companies.

The producers have amassed over 100 hours of interviews with many of the top names in education from over 32 leading universities including MIT, Harvard, and RISD.

FORMAT

9 full-length episodes

Potential for additional seasons

MORE INFORMATION

gardenofchildren.org

CONTACT

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