

# Getting Started in Early Childhood Education (ECE)

## The Basics of Early Childhood Education

### 1. ECE Theorists:

Research, read and understand the basic theories of child development. There is a century of research on child development to discover.

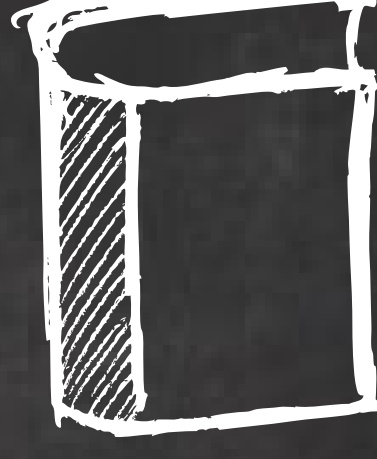
### 2. Approaches to ECE:

There are a number of curriculum's and approaches that have emerged since the early 20th century. Take a look at the what they do, how they do it and why.

### 3. ECE Communities:

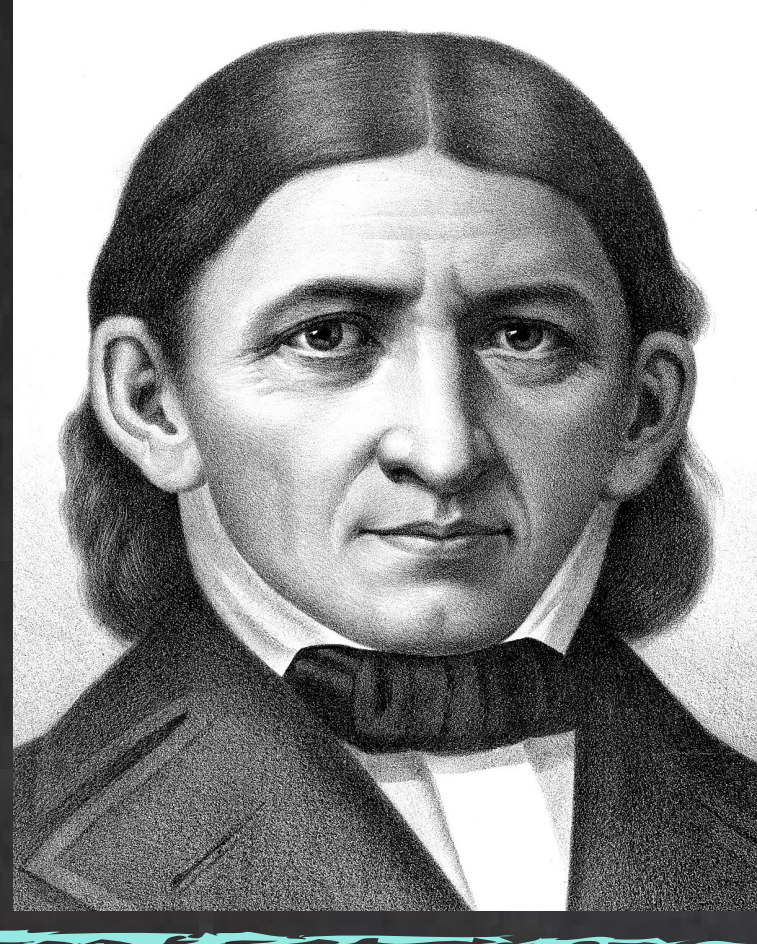
Learn from current and former ECE educators. There are social media pages, websites and a number of great books from ECE experts to find.

ECE



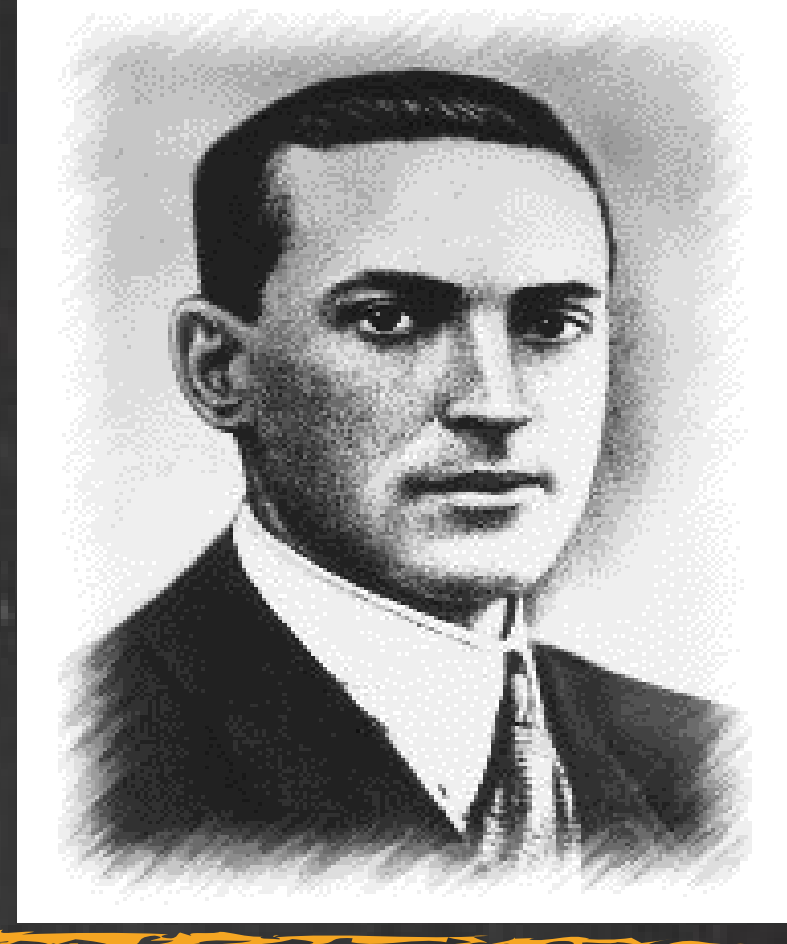
## 1. ECE Theories:

### Three Theorists You Should Know..



**Friedrich Froebel**

1. German Educator who founded the first school for children under seven in 1837.
2. Rejected traditional notions at the time that small children lacked the cognitive skills to be educated.
3. Coined the term kindergarten meaning 'child's/children's garden'.
4. Froebel believed that children's play activities could be guided by a teacher to help them explore and interact with the world around them.



**Lev Vygotsky**

1. Russian psychologist who died at the age of 37.
2. Vygotsky emphasized that a child's development happens first on a social level suggesting the people and culture around a child impact their learning process.
3. Developed the ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which can be used to understand the effect adults and peers have on a child's development and learning.

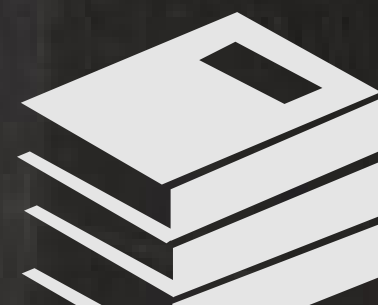


**Jean Piaget**

1. Swiss Theorist who built upon the ideas of Froebel.
2. Rejected the idea that young children were empty vessels to be filled.
3. Believed young children to be "active builders of knowledge or little scientists".
4. Developed the cognitive childhood development theory that outlines different stages of development.



Child Development Theories



## 2. Approaches to ECE:

### Famous ECE Approaches & Curriculum's

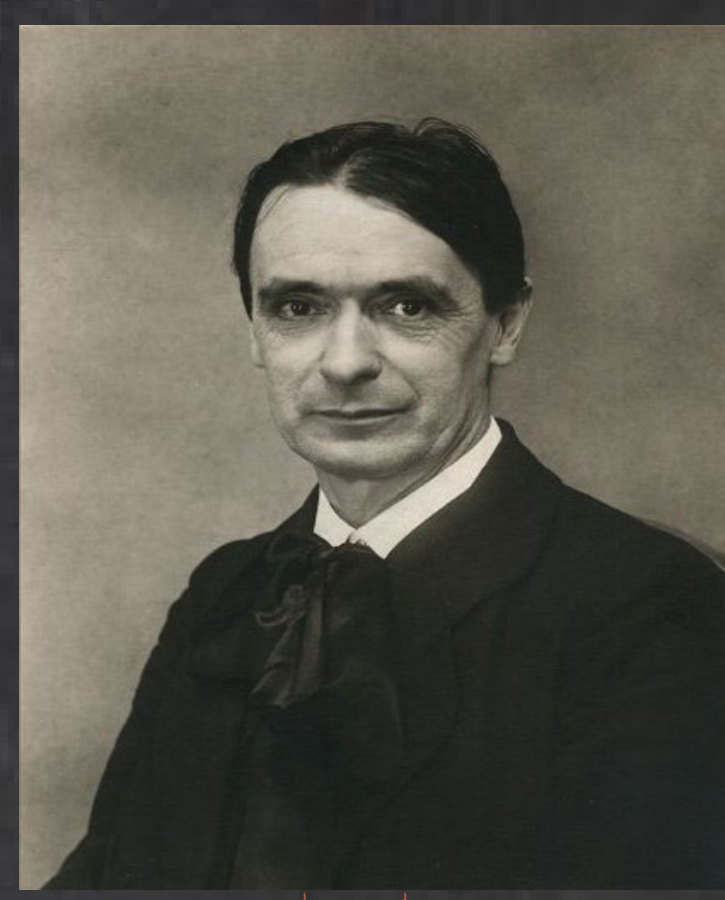
**Maria Montessori**



**Montessori Method**  
(Italy, 1907)

- Teacher as guide
- Written curriculum
- Mixed age groups
- Specific manipulative/materials
- Teachers can obtain Montessori Credentials
- No tests or grades
- Has schools across the world.

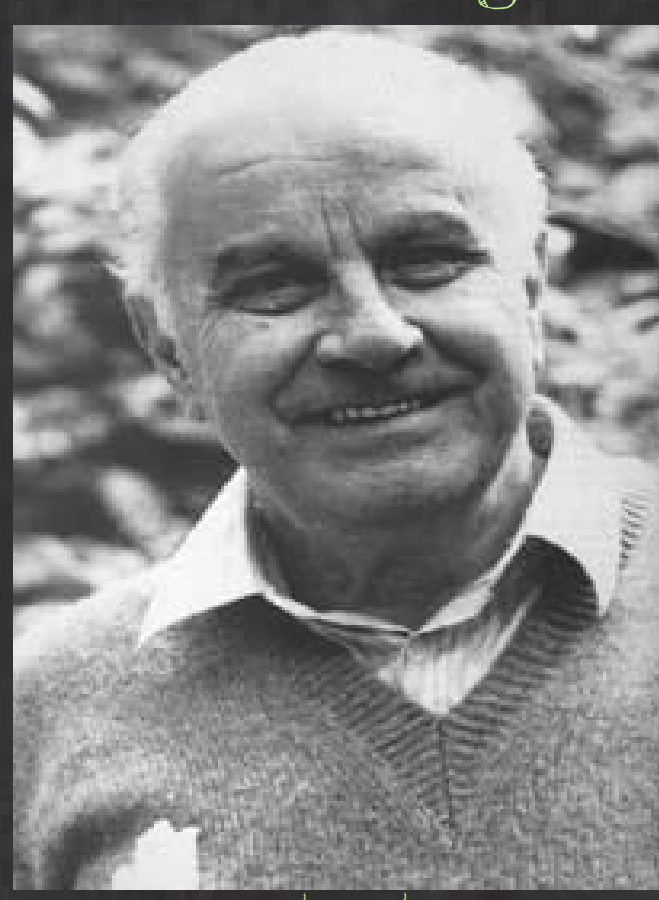
**Rudolf Steiner**



**Waldorf Approach**  
(Germany, 1919)

- Teacher as performer
- Focus on the arts
- Teachers can obtain Waldorf Credentials
- Children don't use technology
- No tests or grades
- Has schools across the world.

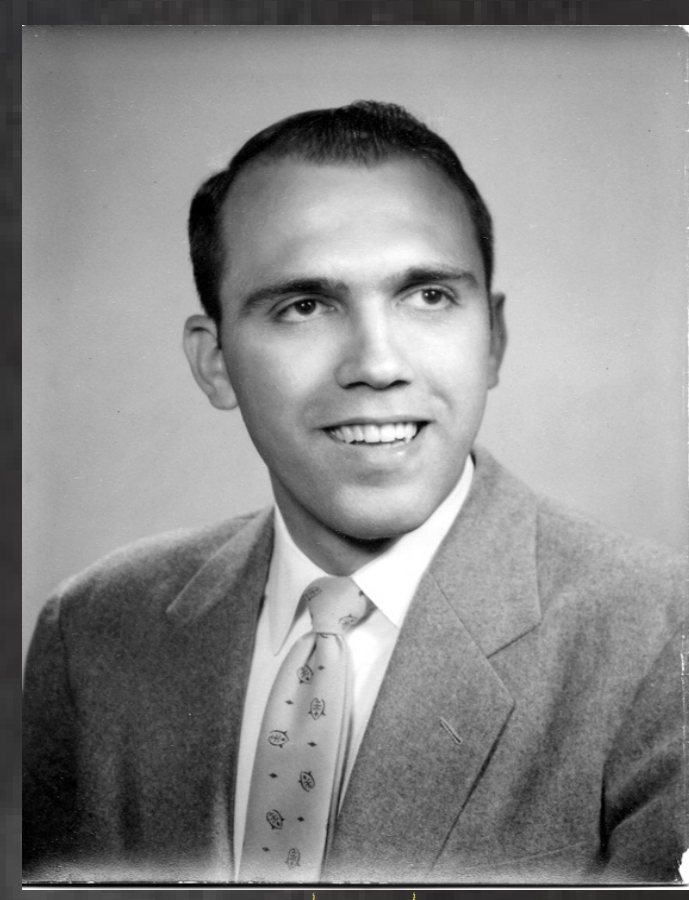
**Loris Malaguzzi**



**Reggio Emilia Approach**  
(Italy, 1945)

- Teacher in variety of roles
- Focus on relationships & community
- No written curriculum
- Does not focus on traditional academics
- No tests or grades.
- No credentials available.
- Has inspired schools across the world

**David P. Weikart**



**High Scope Approach**  
(USA, 1970)

- Teacher in an active role with children
- Hands on learning
- Focus on daily routines.
- Plan-Do-Review
- Prepared environment with distinct areas.
- Has schools across the world.

THESE ARE GENERALIZATIONS OF COMPLEX APPROACHES TO ECE. IN FACT THESE APPROACHES SHARE MANY OF THE SAME QUALITIES BUT DIFFER SLIGHTLY ON THE FOCUS OF EACH

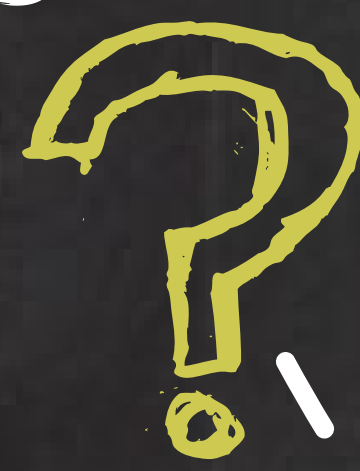


Early Childhood Curriculums and Approaches



## 3. ECE Communities:

### Connect & Learn from Professionals



Checkout amazon/kindle or your local book store to find informative and interesting books from ECE educators.



Join a number of ECE Facebook groups to see pictures, find articles and ask questions to other ECE educators.



Attend education fairs, conferences and Professional Development events.



Connect with schools, ECE leaders, educators and recruiters.



Follow #tags, professors, organizations and trends in ECE.

