

Paraphrasing

This exercise is designed to teach 'correct paraphrasing' using a chapter by Jackson, S. (2004) (eds) *Early Childhood Policy and Services* in Maynard, T. and Thomas, N. *An Introduction to Early Childhood Studies*. London: Sage Publications.

The verbatim text reads:

Some writers have suggested that the growth of the playgroup movement and the strength of the Preschool Playgroups Association (PPA) enabled governments to ignore the campaign for nursery education. There was well argued opposition in playgroup circles to the downward extension of the school starting age which meant that playgroups lost the older age group and were obliged to accept two-year-olds to remain viable. In Wales the Welsh-medium playgroups (Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin) played an important role in promoting the language and were concerned that children might move into English-speaking primary schools before their speech was fully established. However, the government's strategy for extending nursery education allows playgroups to apply for education funding provided they meet Ofsted standards for the foundation stage of the National Curriculum.

Two re-writes:

(1) It has been suggested that the government was able to ignore the campaign for nursery education due to the growth of the playgroup movement and the strength of the Preschool Playgroups Association (PPA). There was opposition to playgroup circles and the downward extension of the school starting age. To remain viable playgroups were obliged to accept two-year olds because they lost the older age group. Welsh-medium playgroups (Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin) played a vital role in developing the Welsh language. In Wales they were worried that children would go to English primary school before they have fully embedded the Welsh language. Nevertheless, the extension of nursery education has enabled playgroups to apply for education funding. This is subject to playgroups meeting Ofsted standards for the foundation stage.

(2) The strength of the Preschool Playgroups Association has detracted government attention from the nursery education agenda. The playgroup movement has shown considerable resistance to the school starting age being lowered. Consequently, playgroups have been forced to admit two-year-olds early to playgroups be able to work successfully. This has also aroused concern in Welsh-medium playgroups. Here pre-school children are encouraged to develop their first language (Welsh). Under the previous system, they had time to fully develop the Welsh language before starting in an English primary school. This made the acquisition of a second language easier because their Welsh language skills were already well established. Yet, if playgroups meet Ofsted standards they can access education funding (Jackson, 2004).

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