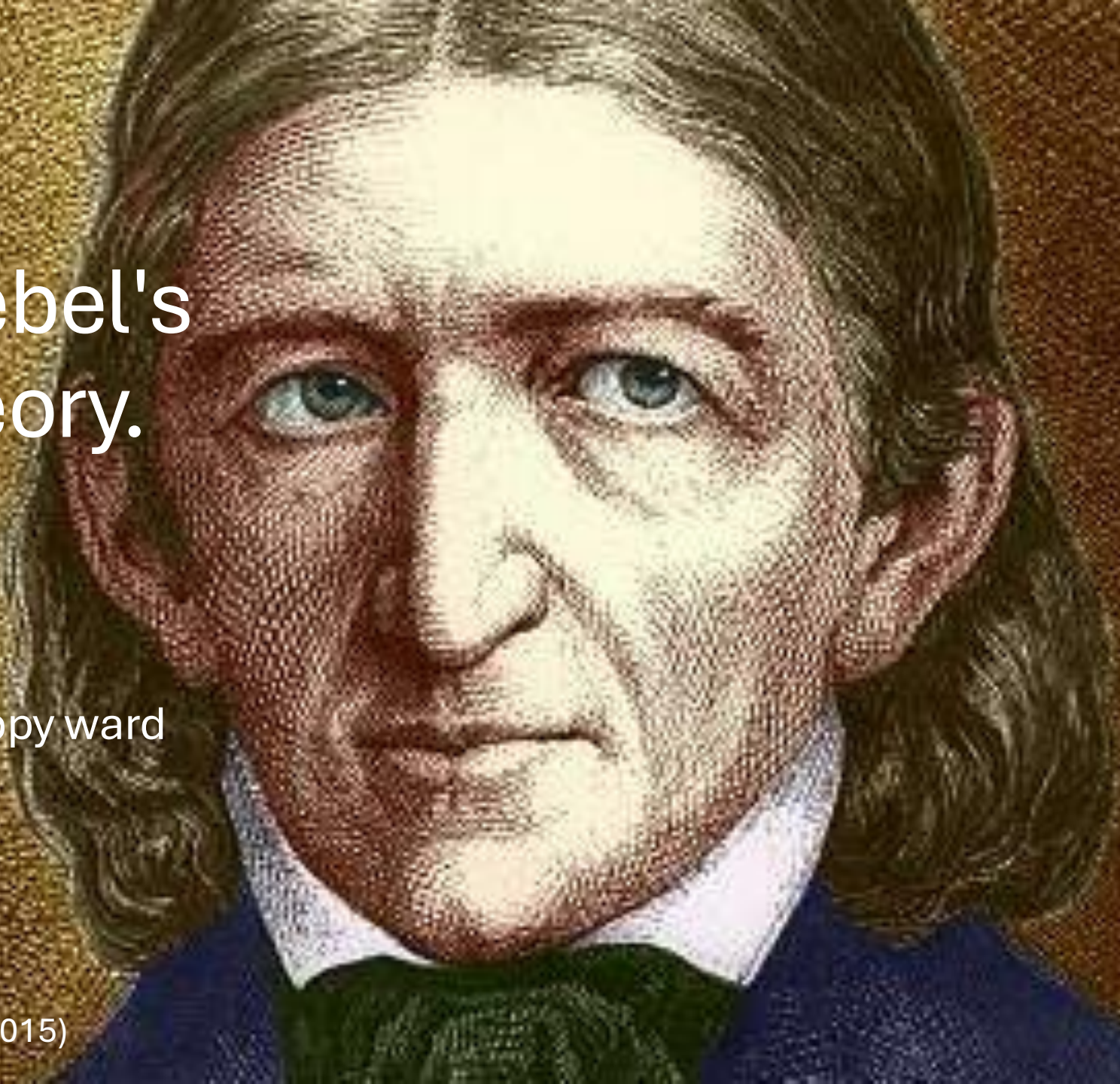


Froebel's theory.

By poppy ward

(Source: gettyimage, 2015)



Friedrich Froebel

21st April, 1782 – 21st June, 1852

♥ Educators as facilitators

Positions the educator as a guide who follows and supports children's interests and curiosities.

Froebel's 'gifts'

Facilitated symbolic play through fixed forms such as blocks and balls. Designed sets of 500 wooden blocks for this purpose.

Founder of Kindergarten

Established 'children's gardens' as a form of school for 3 - 4 year olds (1836).

Play advocate

Proposed that play embraces a holistic approach to learning combining imagination and movement.

Connections with nature

Fostered connection with the natural world through gardening experiences.

Froebel's 'occupations'

Nurtured creativity through malleable materials, such as clay, sand, rope, beads.

Froebel's theory

'Froebel's play theory stress the importance of developing the child in all areas: socially, academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually.'

(twinkle, n.d.)

Key Principles

- Freedom with guidance.
- Unity, connectedness and community.
 - Engaging with nature.
- Learning through self-activity and reflection.
 - The central importance of play.
 - Creativity and the power of symbols.
- Knowledgeable and nurturing educators.

(Tovey, 2020)

Froebel's gift

'The Gifts are central to Froebelian practice and, like block play, enable children to make connections in their learning – building on the familiar, exploring the different and so expanding their skills, knowledge and understanding.'

(Froebel Trust, n.d.)



(source: Montessori Toys, 2025)

Froebel's theory and Curriculum of Wales connections

The three enablers

(Froebel Trust, 2024)

'Enabling adults'



Freedom with guidance



(source: OER COMMONS, 2025)

'Effective environments'



Unity and connectedness



(source: Freepik, 2025)

'Engaging experiences'



Self-activity



(Source: Rolljak, 2023)

Froebel's Principles in Practice

Froebel's Occupations: Through the Occupations, children can:

- Cooking
- Clay
- Woodwork

- 'Represent, be inventive and engage creatively and imaginatively
- build their physical competencies
- make links to everyday life, nature, knowledge and understanding
- be empowered to move from the here and now to the abstract (so laying the foundations of literacy and mathematical understanding)
- develop dispositions and attitudes that will benefit them in the adult world of work.'



Benefits to child development.

'Froebel's educational philosophy is based on the belief that children are inherently creative and learn best through play and hands-on experiences. He viewed education as an unfolding process, where each child's unique abilities and interests are cultivated through guided exploration and discovery.'

(My Teaching Cuboard, N.D)

Conclusion

To conclude, Froebel's theory helps to shape modern practice by highlighting the importance of play, creativity and connection with nature, and his gifts and occupations help to develop children's holistic development and growth, while linking to today's curriculum of Wales.

Thank you for listening.



(Source: Spouts school, Koblin, 2023)

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