

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00146

Agnew, Mary Ann Eliza

(1857 - 1940)

Born 6 November, 1857, Openshaw England

Died 14 June, 1940, South Brisbane Queensland Australia

Occupation Education reformer, Kindergarten teacher

Summary

Educated in Liverpool, England, Mary Agnew moved to Queensland in late 1890 to join the Queensland Department of Public Instruction, taking the position of Kindergarten Instructor. Agnew was given the task of raising the standard of education for young children. Applying the methods of Friedrich Froebel, Agnew introduced a syllabus based on the importance of education through activity and play, stressing that young children could not spend long periods of time each day engaged in intellectual learning. Influencing departmental policy on infant and kindergarten work, it was only in the last years of her career that her revolutionary work in pre-school education began to be implemented.

Published resources

Resource Section

Agnew, Mary Ann Eliza (1857 - 1940), Grieshaber, Susan, 2006, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10007b.htm>

Book Section

Mary Agnew, McMullen, C., 1994

Report

34th Report of the Secretary for the Public Instruction for the Year 1909, Parliamentary Papers (Queensland), 1910

Journal

Links, 1982

Journal Article

Preschool Pioneer, Grieshaber, S., 1994

Mary Agnew, Kindergarten instructor for Queensland schools, Grieshaber, Susan, 1994

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Queensland State Archives

[Correspondence](#)

[Registrar - teachers](#)

Author Details

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