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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

: MAJOR

KEY WORD: THE DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN THAILAND DURING B.E. 2411-2538. THESIS

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The objective of this research was to study the development of early childhood education curriculum in Thailand during B.E. 2411-2538 by analyzing factors related to components of early childhood education starting from periods of King Rama V to the present.

The results are as follows : formal early childhood education in our country has begun during King Rama V period in the forms of child care center, schools for the princes and princesses, and for the public. Social factor had an important influence on literacy curriculum. The curriculum for disadvantage children in child care center of that period had also included training in the area of practical life.

When private preschools were first setup by the western specialists, the curriculum had been designed based on Froebel and Montessori theories. During this period early childhood in Thailand was first started with concepts of the early childhood education theories.

Upon the political revolution in 1932, governmental policy on early childhood education was clearly defined, leading to a wider expansion of this educational level. Curriculum was developed and widely implemented with an integrated philosophy of Froebel, Montessori, Thai cultural identities and values in democracy by the Thai educators of this period. Later there were more organizations involved in expanding early childhood education programs. These institutions had reconstructed their own curriculum, however, most still followed the curriculum approach developed by the Office of the National Primary Education Commission.

At present, although the readiness curriculum approach has been widely accepted, academics are still a major practice. Trends of globalization on information and technology age have an important influence on curriculum development, educational practice with different interpretation on readiness philosophy in many educational institutions.

ภาควิชา..... ประถมศึกษา.....

ลายมือชื่อนิสิต.....

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