

The life, fundamental beliefs, educational approach and influence of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

- Approaches to education which we now take for granted or consider essential to the transformation of education begin with Pestalozzi:
- How things are taught is considered as important as what is taught
- A child-centred rather than teacher-centred approach to teaching and learning with the interests and needs of each child is put first. Each child is seen as a unique entity and plays an active rather than passive role in the learning experience
- Authority is based on love, not fear. The teacher leads by example; if the teacher is loving towards the child, the child will show love to others
- The five senses are used in training students in observation and judgement
- The child is no longer seen as a tabula rasa or blank slate but as a seed with the full potential for growth held within. The teacher has the role of a gardener, providing the right environment and necessary support for the seed to fully develop
- The freedom of the child based on his or her natural development is prioritised
- Activity and movement is vital; Pestalozzi recognised that it is against human nature to make children sit still all day
- The child is provided with opportunities for direct experience of the world, with concrete experience and natural objects used in teaching, along with field trips and other educational excursions
- Subjects of instruction are systemised. These move from local and concrete to more distant and abstract. They are also carefully graduated and illustrated
- Learning is cross-curricular and includes a varied school life
- Cooperation between the school and the home and between parents and teachers is encouraged

- Self-discipline is considered important to function well as an individual and in society
- An all-round heart-led head, heart and hands education is provided. The aim of a Pestalozzi education is to equip children with the academic knowledge and critical thinking, the relevant practical skills and the motivation and loving attitude required to help themselves and others
- Pestalozzi recognised that teaching is a subject that is worth studying in its own right. He is therefore known as the father of pedagogy (the method and practice of teaching, especially as an academic subject or theoretical concept). He caused education to become a separate branch of knowledge, alongside politics and other recognised areas of knowledge
- The democratisation of education - Pestalozzi believed in the ability of every individual human being to learn and in the right of every individual to education. He believed that it was the duty of society to put this right into practice. His beliefs led to education becoming democratic; in Europe, education became available for everyone. Pestalozzi was particularly concerned about the condition of the poor. Some of them did not go to school. If they did, the school education was often useless for their needs. He wanted to provide them with an education which would make them independent and able to improve their own lives

Pestalozzi's aim was to provide a complete theory of education that would lead to a practical way of bringing happiness to humankind. The modern era of education started with him, with his spirit and ideas leading to the great European educational reforms in the nineteenth century. His influence has spread globally, and many of his ideas resonate with indigenous approaches to education across the world.

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The Life, Educational Approach and Fundamental Beliefs of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi's Life and Work – An Outline

A Biography of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi for children by Dr. Arthur Brühlmeier: (See different versions below)

- [Print version](#)
- [Read online version](#)

Texts, Videos and Websites on Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi and his Life - Photos from Dr. Arthur Brühlmeier

Pestalozzi's Fundamental Ideas summarised from work by Dr. Arthur Brühlmeier:

- [Anthropology \(about Human Nature\)](#)
- [The Nature and Function of the State](#)
- [Poverty](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Upbringing and Formative Education](#)

Background to Education in Europe in Pestalozzi's Time

Pestalozzi and the Transformation of Education

Pestalozzi and Education

Pestalozzi's Influence

Pestalozzi's Fables (some examples)

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The Life, Educational Approach and Fundamental Beliefs of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

[**Video: Pestalozzi – Life Events and Approach**](#)

[**Video: Pestalozzi's Influence and Relevance**](#)

[**Pestalozzi Organisations Today**](#)

For more information on Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, our approach and impact please get in touch via email:

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