

*The institutions of pre-school education in Lviv (until the year 1939)*

**Summary**

This paper presents the development of **pre-school education** education in Lviv in 19<sup>th</sup> and at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, until the outbreak of the Second World War. The text is a contribution to the modest outcome of research conducted hitherto. First and foremost, it was based upon the source documents stored in the archives in Lviv. It contains information about the issue of the evolution of the system of pre-school education. The analysis of the documents demonstrated the tendency to evolve from solely care activities to methodical upbringing and education with the application of Friedrich Froebel's didactics, and in the period between the world wars also with the application of the ideas of Maria Montessori and Jean-Ovide Decroly. Philanthropy was phased out, and attempts were made to find the more stable financial basis in the form of governmental or municipal subsidies. The direction of changes in an approach to the care and upbringing of a child at nursery school age was also indicated by terminology – the notion of nursery was slowly replaced with those of 'Froebel nursery school' and 'children's garden', which, in the 1930s, were substituted for with that of nursery school, placing emphasis upon the initial preparation to compulsory school education. Because of the multinational character of the city, a significant role in the scope of the subject of this paper was played not by Polish institutions, but also by the Jewish and Ukrainian ones. Upon the basis of the conducted research, it is possible to ascertain that it was possible for those two minorities to establish pre-school education institutions reconciling the requirements of the state, both in the case of Austria-Hungary, and the Second Polish Republic, alike, with their own cultural, religious and national needs.

**Keywords:** Lviv, Galicia, nursery, Froebel nursery school, pre-school education.