HISTORY OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES
SPANISH REGIME

- Started formally in grade one with Christian Doctrine

- Predominantly religious utilized certain textbooks as cartilla and pagina de la Infancia (contains alphabet and prayers)

- Young Filipinos mostly coming from the “bourgeois’ illustrado class
Preschooling was unorganized.

The more educated adults in the community became lawful "preschool teachers".

Usually handled on one to one basis and lasting for no less than 30 minutes per session.

(Estolaz & Nunez, 1974)
The regular schooling in the cartilla lasted for 3 to 6 months depending upon the child’s capacity to learn.

This particular schooling facilitated the entry of the child into grade one although it was not necessarily a requirement.
In 1924, the opening of kindergarten education at Harris Memorial School Manila (Harris Memorial College) pioneered preschool education. Under directorship of Miss Mary A. Evans.
A class was established by Mrs. Brigida Fernando after her training at Columbia University Teachers College.
Interest in kindergarten movement was picked up by other private schools and grew successively well among the religious schools both Catholic and Protestant.

Similar interest motivated civic groups to help children.
In 1935, the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN’S CLUB (NFWC) became the forerunner of nursery education. The process of getting government recognition didn’t come after 16 years.
• In 1940, The Bureau of Private Schools had authorized 129 kindergarten classes getting an enrolment of 6,449.

• The World War II disrupted the growth of the program to the point of closing almost all schools.
• The year immediately ensuing liberation had demonstrated a renewed interest in preschool education

• Out 129 government recognized kindergarten schools in 1940, a total of 61 schools with 3,172 enrolment started in operation in 1945-1946
• Private individuals had shortly joined this bold start

• The NFWC continued to have its nursery classes one in Sampaloc and in Tondo Manila
In 1948, HARRIS MEMORIAL SCHOOL initiated another big step by obtaining a government recognition to confer the degree of JUNIOR TEACHER’S CERTIFICATE to Graduate in kindergarten education.
• This was the first recognized course in kindergarten education offered in the Philippines

• Other colleges and universities attempt to emphasize kindergarten teaching by giving special training on the area, either part and parcel of B.S in Education or in Home Economics
Preschool education in the country has almost remained to be associated with Bureau of Private Schools, specially with the religious groups.
BREAKTHROUGH IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

• 1950’s through the effort of Dr. Miguela M. Solis, then the Superintendent of Teacher education in Bureau of Public Schools, preschool education started in the government regional –training schools

• Pangasinan Normal School was the first to take advantage
Followed by Zamboanga Normal School

In 1964, a year after establishment of National Coordinating Center for the Study and Development of Filipino Children and Youth (NCCSDFCY) which Dr. Solis was the director, the Children’s Village was opened to admit kindergarten children, marking another milestone in the public sector.
The growth of Philippine preschool education had been so slow when this is compared to those of the other countries.

Though slow, the regular yearly increment in kindergarten enrolment in both private and public schools had increased.
• The major portion of preschool children were consistently in the private schools with its yearly increase remaining constant.

• Until that there are too many children for every teacher.

• Sending pre-school aged children to private kindergarten is expensive.

• The need for nursery schools that could cater to the lower income families was then felt.
• A number of national offices and civic organizations have responded to the need to extend appropriate education

• The NFWC who has started only with two schools has expanded to 251 classes mostly located in the less chance areas like Tondo, Sampaloc, Paco and others
• In 1956, the Manila Health Department introduced the concept of modern preschool “play centers” in Manila.
• It was Dr. Demetrio Belmonte the assistant city health officer who had a trip from different countries like Europe and USA and observed the operation of modern and scientific preschool.
• With the assistance of Dr. Evangeline G. Suva, returning grantee on programming preschool play centers and Mrs. Isabel Santos, a social worker of the Ladies’ Association worked hand in hand to put up the first modern fully equipped play centers at the KAPITAN ISIDRO MENDOZA HEALTH CENTER
• Meanwhile various civic organization have similarly taken bold steps in support of the program.
• Some of them are Young Ladies Association of Charity, The Rural Improvement Clubs, The Philippine Women’s Medical Association.
• In mid 1960’s the Department of Social Welfare had started the inclusion of nursery and kindergarten education in its program.
1970’s to 1980’s – The government’s intensified interest in the welfare of the Filipino child resulted in the signing of P.D 603

PD 603- known as CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE CODE in 1974”

1979- UNESCO( United nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization) declared as the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD
1977 to 1987

The Philippines declared DECADE OF THE FILIPINO CHILD

This marked the increased of number of preschool children and also the establishments both in private and public schools.
1978 to 1989- DECS encouraged the operation of preschools in public elementary schools with MEC Order No. 24 s 1978 and DECS Order No. 107, s.1989 (Soliven et.al,1997)

1993 to 1994- There were 1,892 DECS- recognizes and registered private schools in the country with 416,894 enrolled preschoolers
1995 to 2000- Three reform programs were initiated in response to the need of rising numbers of preschoolers:

EDUCATION FOR ALL

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

Implementation of LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE
THANK YOU!!!

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