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A Connection from Emergent Literacy Practices from the 1900s through the 1930s to Today's Ontario Kindergarten Curriculum

Through the use of resources from the 1900s-1930s, today's kindergarten curriculum resources and scholarly papers, this paper aims to discover how the early 1900s emergent literacy program of Ontario helped to shape today's kindergarten literacy program. I will be organizing my paper in the following four chapters; Introduction: An Examination of Emergent Literacy in the Kindergarten of 1900-1930, What the Experts of 1990s and Forward Claim Makes a Strong Literacy Program, A Comparison of the Early 1900s Emergent Readers to the Experts' Recommendation, A Look at Today's Kindergarten Reading and Writing Program, in Comparison to the Past and to What the Experts Claim. For my background information, I will begin by examining all the primary sources I have collected. These include: Cusack, A. and M. Pennell, *The Happy Children Readers*, The Copp Clark Company Limited, *Maple Leaf Primer for Canadian Little Folks*, London: F.L. Ballin *The Kindergarten System Explained*, The Ministry of Education. *The Ontario Kindergarten Program Queens Printer for Ontario*, T.Eaton Company Limited *The Ontario Readers Primer*, Nelson Education Limited *I Like to Play, Mom and Dad*. I must examine them closely and learn what emergent literacy looked like for children in the 1900s. I will think about the content of the reading passages, the color, the interest, and the progression of reading levels. Then, I will examine the secondary resources that are mentioned in my secondary sources in order to learn about what the experts of the late nineteenth hundreds claim makes a strong emergent literacy program for children learning how to read. Once I have

discovered what the experts claim makes a good literacy program, I will compare it to the past early primer texts. Finally, I will synthesize the information that I have gathered about the early 1900s in comparison to the experts' claims and then compare it to today's Ontario kindergarten literacy curriculum. I hope to discover that there is a progressive connection from the early 1900s early readers to today's literacy program and how the past readers have helped shape today's reading and writing program.