

The *École Hastings* and Education

The *école Hastings* was founded in 1908 to provide for children from preschool age and to relieve the pressure on existing schools, which were struggling to handle the numbers of pupils required despite having undergone several extensions. In 1912, two preschool teachers shared responsibility for 200 schoolchildren. The teachers played an essential role in integrating the children of immigrant workers, who sometimes lived in precarious conditions.

The factory also supported educational initiatives. In 1941, its management (which was the Cégédur at the time) set up a youth centre in order to counter the effects of unemployment due to the factory having closed down during the War. It provided its engineers and technicians as teachers, as well as the materials required for the workshops: metalworks, wood, fitting, masonry etc. When France was liberated, this centre was made permanent and became a *Centre d'apprentissage par le travail* (CAT – “Centre for Learning Through Work”). From 1959, CATs became CETs: *Collèges d'Enseignement Technique* (“Technical Learning Colleges”).

Legend

The *école Hastings*, Jacques Gauthier collection.

Legend

Preschool class at the *école Hastings*, 1929-1930 schoolyear, Marie Langlais collection – Un fleuve pour la liberté, la Dives.