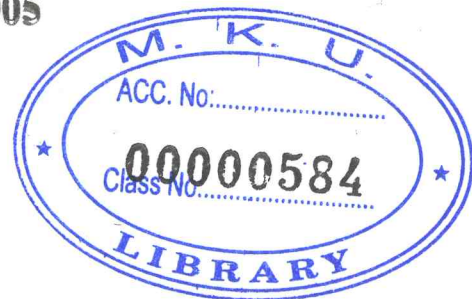


**EFFECTS OF PLAY ON THE GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT OF A 5-6 YEAR OLD CHILD**

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ABSTRACT

This study is intended to equip teachers, parents and other care givers with adequate knowledge of the need of play in children aged 5 — 6 years. It gives the insight of the holistic development and integration of learning whereby co curricular activities including play are given the right priority.

Presentation of the background of the study by highlighting the opinion other psychologists about play and the purpose and justification of this study to the teacher and other caregivers the researcher also gives a statement of the problem that necessitated the investigation of his study to promote play in pre — schools.

It also gives a report on several psychologists and philosophers who have spotted and justified the need of play and its effects on the growth and development of a 5 — 6 years old child in his/her natural environment. In data collection, the researcher used observation schedules and questionnaires method to collect the right information using quantitative method of research he analysed the data of the subject according to his developmental milestone in physical, cognitive, emotional and social domains. He found out that children of the same age may have different growth and development of play.

From the collected, data analysis was done, children have different growth and development rates in their holistic aspects and the researcher recommended that there is need to be accorded what is necessary for this growth. Besides giving adequate materials of play enough space and time caregivers need to appreciate and support them to foster their growth and development of play. They should also put more emphasis on the need of play in school and support each other in making more materials to stimulate play patterns depending on the children interest and likes.