

EFFECT OF PLAY ON ACQUISITION OF LANGUAGE SKILLS AMONG
SCHOOL CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF NAKEEL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN
ONGATA RONGAI, KAJIADO COUNTY.

BY

NAME: MUTUA MUSILA GEORGE

REG NO: BEDA/111/ 03385

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effect of role play on acquisition of language skills among pupils with special reference to those in lower classes: A case study of Nakeel primary school in Kajiado District in Kajiado County. The study was anchored on interaction's explanatory models. The theory combine the contributions of various research directions, and emphasize in particular the significance of the exchange between the child and the social environment in which the process of language acquisition takes place. This study was guided by the following objectives: To determine frequency of use of play in language learning among children in lower cases in Nakeel Primary School in Ongata Rongai Division in Kajiado District in Kajiado County. To find out effect of type of play on acquisition of language skills among children in lower-class in Nakeel Primary School in Ongata Rongai Division in Kajiado District in Kajiado County. To determine effect of availability of play resources on acquisition of language skills in lower classes in Nakeel Primary School in Ongata Rongai Division in Kajiado District in Kajiado County. The design adopted for this study was descriptive survey design which facilitated the use of questionnaires for teachers and pupils and observation checklists for the researcher. The target population consisted of nine teachers and 175 pupils in class one to three. The study sample size was 44 participants (9 teachers and 35 pupils) which was 20% of the participants. Purposive sampling and simple random sampling methods were used to select the participants. The collected data was sort and arranged for analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed by use of Microsoft Excel for expression in simple statistical measures like mean, frequencies and percentages. The results were then presented inform of tables and graphs. Qualitative data was descriptively analyzed and discussed. Findings of the study indicate that most teachers are conversant with role play and employ it in their language lessons. However, a few teachers have not yet embraced the methodology. The study found out that role play assists in boosting pupils' power to recall difficult concepts, building their self confidence, helping better their self expression skills, and in talent discovery. Role play resources were found to be of help in teaching languages in lower primary. They were found to help pupils discover their talents, strengthen their ability to be creative and in the understanding of abstract concepts. The study concluded that role play is an effective method of teaching/learning languages in lower primary and has been adopted by most teachers. However, a few teachers do not use it at all in their lessons.