

**FACTORS INFLUENCING ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN
AGED 4-5 YEARS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
CENTERS IN KYUSO DIVISION KITUI COUNTY, KENYA.**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Early childhood education has been found to be very critical in the mental and overall development of children. However, in some societies especially the poor, children miss early childhood education. The purpose of this study was therefore to investigate the factors influencing enrolment of children aged 4-5 years in ECD centers in Kyuso division Kitui County. To realize the purpose of the study, a survey design was adopted. Primary data was collected by use of questionnaires. The questionnaire contained both open ended and structured questions which targeted 16 ECD teachers and 15 parents from public, private and church sponsored ECD centers in Kyuso Division Kitui County. Simple random sampling was used to pick the teachers and parents. Data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Qualitative analysis considered the inferences that were made from the opinions of the respondents. This data was then presented thematically. Quantitative analysis involved the generation of frequencies and percentages. This data was then presented using tables and figures.

The study revealed that lack of feeding programmes parents level of education and poverty were the major factors influencing low enrolment of children aged 4-5 years in kyuso division.

The study recommends that, the government should; review the education act to include in ECDE into the mainstream education system, employ trained ECDE teachers as well as making participation in early childhood education programs compulsory.