MOTIVATION AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF LEARNERS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTERS IN KANGARI DIVISION KIGUMO DISTRICT MURANG'A COUNTY, KENYA.

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ABSTRACT

The topic of this study was Motivation and Academic Performance of learners in Early Childhood Education Centers in Kigumo District of Murang'a County in Kenya. The study was carried out under three objectives, namely; determining the degree of motivation and determining if there is any significant relationship between motivation and academic performance. The study was based on the theory of Abraham Maslow of motivation and hierarchy of needs. In the methodology, the study relied on primary source of information, the questionnaire. The design of the study was descriptive survey research. The study utilized forty teachers to provide information. In the findings, rewards were found be provision of money to cater for teaching aids and materials necessary for learning. Policies should also be written where the topic of motivation should be included in the teacher training colleges. This will provide quality teaching in the schools. The school environment should be improved to allow enough space for learning.

Play should be compulsory to all learners as it motivates them to be in school. The parents should always be involved in matters related to learning and motivation of learners whether through physical rewards or prizes during Prize giving days. Areas for further research were also proposed on the following topics: the role of Childhood Education Centers in provision of education in Kenya and the effect of using untrained teachers in Early Childhood Education Centres, on academic performance.