

**THE ROLE OF PLAY ON PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF MUSA GITAU PRESCHOOL,
KIKUYU DISTRICT**

BY

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for award of a degree in any other university

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27/8/09

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This research project has been submitted for examination with authority of university supervisor

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ABSTRACT

The researcher tried to prove what the role of play on pre- school children's social development. The objectives of the study were to find out the relationship between play materials and social development, role of the preschool teacher's and parents attitude towards play, relationship between time allocated to play on social development of preschool children and types of play activities that promotes social development. The research design used was a case study. Data collection was done by interviewing teachers and children, questionnaire for parents and naturalistic observation of the children as they play.

The researcher analyzed the data using descriptive statistics and qualitative techniques. Among the findings was that play materials promote children's social development. Parents and teachers provided play materials although they were not enough. As children used play materials, they learnt social skills such as sharing play materials, taking turn and developing a healthy relationship through tolerance. Play activities such as game of hide and seek helped children to learn the social skills of following rules. These skills help children to co-exist with others in the society. Time allocated for play was not enough as teachers used time for outdoor play for other activity areas such as number work. Parents and school administration pressure teachers to prepare children who are excellent intellectually. This made teachers neglect play activities. Despite all the challenges of lack of enough play materials, time and negative attitude toward play, children still benefited from play because any minute they got, they involved themselves in play.