AN EVALUATION OF THE GUIDELINES USED BY CHILDCARE CENTERS IN SAFEGUARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CHILDREN IN BURUMBA WARD, BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA

by

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APPROVAL

AN EVALUATION OF THE GUIDELINES USED BY CHILDCARE CENTERS IN SAFEGUARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CHILDREN IN BURUMBA WARD, BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA.

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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

AN EVALUATION OF THE GUIDELINES USED BY CHILDCARE CENTERS IN SAFEGUARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CHILDREN IN BURUMBA WARD, BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA.

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	original work and has not university for academic

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to all children in need of care and protection in Kenya. May your voices be heard, and all your rights be safeguarded.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACRWC African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children

CCPS County Child Protection Systems

DCS Directorate of Children Services

DU-ISERC Daystar University Institutional Scientific and Ethical Review

Committee

ECDE Early Childhood Development and Education

KEBS Kenya Bureau of Standards

ML&SP Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

MOE Ministry of Education

NACOSTI National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

NCCS National Council for Children Services

NCF Nurturing Care Framework

NCP National Children Policy

NCPS National Child Protection Systems

NEMA National Environment Management Authority

NPPE National Pre-Primary Education Policy Standard Guidelines

NSPCC The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

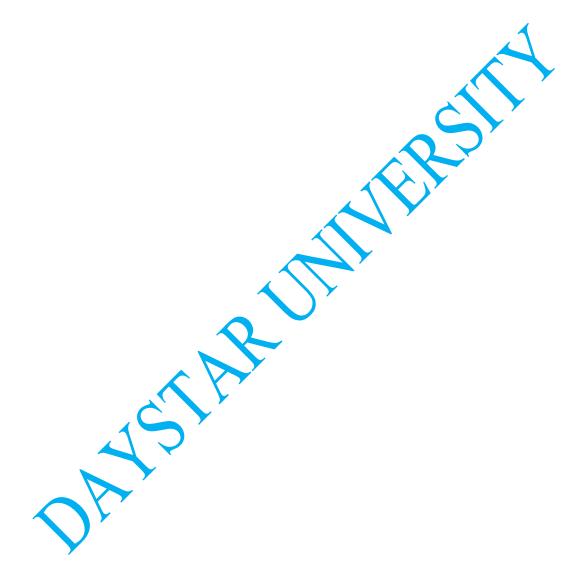
SPSS Statistical Package for Social Sciences

UNCRC United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

VAC Violence Against Children

WHO World Health Organization



ABSTRACT

Childcare centers are facilities that provide supervised care for children while their parents are working. This study evaluated guidelines used by childcare centers in safeguarding early childhood children in Burumba Ward, Busia County, Kenya. The objectives were to examine guidelines used by childcare centers, analyze the effectiveness of guidelines used by childcare centers in safeguarding children, and assess the organizational capacity of childcare centers to implement the guidelines. The study was informed by the attachment and ecological systems theories. Descriptive research design was used and both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. The target population was private childcare centers. Respondents comprised 5 center managers, 5 caregivers, and 166 parents. Data was collected using questionnaires, structured interviews, and observation schedules. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), version 25, and content analysis were used to analyze quantitative and qualitative data respectively. Findings revealed a significant positive correlation (r (4) =0.70, 0.008<0.05) between the adoption of guidelines and safeguarding of children. Childcare centers had some guidelines that they used. The mean child-to-caregiver ratio (25:1) obtained was significantly different (t=3.164, p=0.034) from the ministry of education recommendation. Findings also revealed small, overcrowded spaces in 60% of the centers. The study concluded that lack of childcare-specific guidelines was a hindrance to their regulation, guidelines used were insufficient in safeguarding children, and childcare centers had inadequate organizational capacity to implement the guidelines. The study recommended the development of a childcare-specific national policy framework and consolidation of child safeguarding services under one ministry for easier supervision and monitoring.