

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

by

Judith Nabwire

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APPROVAL

AN EVALUATION OF THE GUIDELINES USED BY CHILDCARE CENTERS IN
SAFEGUARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CHILDREN IN BURUMBA WARD,
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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial
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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.

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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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

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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.