

CHILD GROWTH DEVELOPMENT AND PSYCHOLOGY

ESSENCE STATEMENT

- This program on Child Development and Psychology deals with how children grow physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. An awareness of these facets relating to child psychology and development are crucial for a primary school teacher and early year's education teacher.
- By studying the various stages of early childhood and adolescent development, the teacher trainee would be equipped with knowledge about children's ability at different ages.
- The role of a teacher should not just be supervision and provision of education to children but also to keep a watchful eye on their various aspects of development.
- This course is designed to equip and develop knowledge and skills that would enable the teacher trainee effectively guide the young learners.
- It provides knowledge on different aspects of growth and development of the child and requirements at different stages of development.
- Additionally, it brings to the fore the fact that every child has different mental ability and learns at different pace levels.
- Child psychology helps the teacher to study the ability, interests, intelligence and needs of the child as well as the different techniques of teaching for effective communication.
- The inclusion of this course to teacher preparation will raise both the competence and profile of teachers as professionals.

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the primary school teacher trainee should be able to:

- Analyse major developmental milestones of children in the areas of physically, cognitive, and emotional development.
- Compare and contrast various theoretical frameworks that relate to the study of human development.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of child development theories in terms of their practical applications in learning.
- Analyse effect of biological, environmental and cultural influences on development of children.
- Apply appropriate theoretical approaches when analyzing aspects of child growth and development.

1.0: CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

SUBSTRAND 1.1: CONCEPTS IN CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Key Areas to be covered

- Definitions of terms related to child growth and development
- Principles of growth and development
- Differences between growth and development
- Aspects of growth and development

Definitions of terms related to child growth and development and psychology

Child-Any person under the age of 18 years according to Kenyan Constitution.

Growth-This is the increase in size, height, shape and mass depending on age.

Development- This is increase in complexity of functioning in a person

Psychology- This is the scientific study of the human mind, functions and behavior in a given context.

Personality- is the sum total of behavioural and mental characteristics that make one a unique individual. What makes one an individual includes innate disposition, traits, abilities, attitudes, emotional responses, instincts, temperament, morals etc.

Learning- a relatively permanent change in behavior brought about experience.

Memory- the capacity to record, store, and retrieve information.

Motivation- the factors that energise behavior.

Intelligence- the capacity to understand the world, think rationally and use resources effectively when faced with challenges.

Emotions- feelings which include happiness, despair, sorrow etc that generally have both physiological and cognitive elements and which influence behavior.

Attitudes- learned predispositions to respond in a favourable manner to a particular person, behavior, belief or object.