

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

1ST SEMESTER 2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATIONS FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ECDE)

ECE 111: CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

STREAM: R

TIME: 2 HRS

DAY: MONDAY (11.30-13.30)

DATE: 02/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3 PAGES)

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question one and any other two questions.

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) – (30 MARKS)

Two neighbouring ECD centres have very different philosophies. Center A follows a play-based curriculum, child-initiated activities, with teachers facilitating learning through play. Centre B has a structured academic curriculum with scheduled lessons in literacy, numeracy, and science, where children sit at desks for much of the day. Parents at Center B boast that their 5-year-olds can read simple books and do basic arithmetic, while parents at Center A say their children are "just playing all day."

Questions:

- a) Compare both centres and provide justification about the best center based on the principles of appropriate development practice. **(6 marks)**
- b) What are the potential developmental outcomes (cognitive, social-emotional, and physical) for children in centre A. **(6 marks)**
- c) Explain **THREE** ways parents of these two centers can promote language development in toddlers (12-24 months) during daily routines. **(6 marks)**
- d) Discuss **five** principles that influence growth and development of children enrolled in these two centers. **(6 marks)**
- e) Justify the adoption of play as a both a learning and a developmentally appropriate approach in center A. **(6 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

Kofi is 3 years old and frequently has intense tantrums, refuses to follow routines, and seems to have trouble transitioning between activities. His teacher describes him as "difficult" and "disruptive." His parents report similar challenges at home.

- a) Based on the theories below, provide explanations for Kofi's behaviour beyond simply labelling him as "difficult."
 - i. Bio Ecological Theory
 - ii. Socioemotional Learning theory
 - iii. Social Learning Theory**(15 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

Fatima is 5 years old with Down syndrome. Her parents want her included in a regular ECD classroom, but the teacher feels unprepared and worries about taking attention away from other children. Some parents of typically developing children have expressed concerns.

- a) From a developmental perspective, analyse the potential benefits and challenges of inclusive education for Fatima AND for her typically developing peers. **(15 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

You are conducting a well-child clinic. Mrs. Kamau brings her 24-month-old twin boys, Peter and Paul, for routine check-up. She reports the following Peter: Runs well, climbs stairs with help, says about 50 words, feeds himself with a spoon, plays alongside other children but not with them. **Paul:** Walks unsteadily, falls often, says only "mama" and "dada," needs to be fed, shows little interest in other children. Both children were born at full term with normal birth weights.

- a) Compare the development of both children against expected milestones for their age. **(6 marks)**
- b) Identify which child shows concerning developmental patterns and justify your answer. **(5 marks)**
- c) Discuss FOUR immediate actions you would take regarding the child with concerning development. **(4 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

The WHO recommends no screen time for children under 2 and limited screen time for ages 2-5, yet many children in both developed and developing contexts have significant daily screen exposure.

- a) Evaluate the developmental concerns and potential benefits of screen media for young children, considering cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development. **(8 marks)**
- b) As an ECD professional, what advice can you give to parents who rely on screens for childcare while they work?