DECLARATION

This proposal is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
Ephantus Mwaniki Mbohog
E55/CE/22542/2010

Supervisors

This proposal has been submitted for review with our approval as university supervisors.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
Dr. Rachel W.Kamau-Kang’ethe
Early Childhood Studies Department

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
Dr. Catherine Murungi
Early Childhood Studies Department
ABSTRACT

This study is organized into three chapters. Chapter one explores the background to the problem of the study. It will be carried out in Kiritiri zone, Mbeere South district in Kenya. Malnutrition may not be concentrated in a specific geographical area. Young children in Kiritiri zone may suffer malnutrition arising from rampant drought and consequently famine in the area. Children growth, development and learning may be affected by these adverse conditions. Hence the need to carry out this study to assess the long term and short term effects of malnutrition among pre-school children in the area of study. The purpose of the study will be to investigate the effects of malnutrition on the learning of preschool children. Find out the types of food provided to pre-school children and identify the causes of malnutrition. Performance of pre-school children in terms of acquisition of physical, cognitive and social emotional skills will be determined. The impact of the nutritional status on academic performance of pre-school children will be established. The findings of the study will be used to assist parents, teachers and caregivers in getting information on the importance of a balanced diet for their children. The research will be guided by the theory of cognitive development. The theory was developed by Jean Piaget (1896-1980). The sample size will be thirty percent parents, fifty percent health workers, two percent pre-school children and fifty percent pre-school teachers. Simple random technique will be used where every participant will be given an equal chance of being selected. The study will employ the relationship survey method of research. It will seek to establish the relationship between the nutritional statuses of the preschool children in the area of study with their academic performance. Cross-sectional research methodology will be used because much data will be collected over a short time frame. Questionnaires, interview guides and observational checklists will be used as research instruments for collecting data. The findings will be summarized using charts, tables and graphs.