

# Influence of Teachers' Subject Competence and Teaching Experience on Use of Instructional Strategies to Enhance Pupils Literacy Skills in Busia County, Kenya

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# **Influence of Teachers' Subject Competence and Teaching Experience on Use of Instructional Strategies to Enhance Pupils Literacy Skills in Busia County, Kenya**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Language skills in young children provides a foundation to a better acquisition of cognitive, social, physical and emotional skills useful in the later years of life for children. It also enhances smooth transition, performance, and retention and completion rate in school for children. The paper presents findings from a study conducted to establish the influence of teacher's subject competence and teaching experience on use of instructional strategies to enhance development of literacy skills in children in lower grade in Nambale Sub-county, Busia County Kenya. It is paramount to generate evidence based understanding of the primary role of teachers for language in enhancing children's literacy skills to improve their chances of acquiring quality and inclusive education later in life. Researchers aimed to establish the influence of teacher's subject competence and teaching experience during foundation level at which children should primarily acquire basic literacy skills to facilitate a smooth transition to later grades.

**Key Words:** Teachers' Subject Competence; Teaching Experience; Instructional Strategies to enhance literacy Skills; Busia County; Kenya

## **1. Introduction**

Young children require basic language skills to be able to communicate and develop cognitively as well acquire social skills necessary for academic and social life (Ngaka & Masaazi, 2015). This is contrary to the children who might struggle in acquisition of literacy skills which may lead to school drop-out due to lack of sufficient communication skills. The instructional strategies teachers use during instruction play significant role to provide children adequate literacy skill to be able to adapt well in society.

The term instructional strategies refers to the integrated techniques used during teaching and learning. They include directed reading thinking activity, question answer, read aloud, use of

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