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BASIC ELEMENTS IN BEGINNING AND
MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE
CHURCH WEEKDAY EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE:
OYO EAST AND OYO WEST
BAPTIST CONFERENCES
IN OYO STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to find basic elements in beginning and maintaining an effective church weekday early education centre in Oyo East and Oyo West Baptist Conferences in Oyo State.

Twenty church weekday early education programmes were randomly selected from the two Baptist conferences in Oyo state. One hundred and fifty-five children were rated on a developmental rating form.

The main instruments for data gathering were the questionnaire and a developmental rating form. The hypotheses were empirically tested with the use of calculation of frequency percentages and scores, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (4) and One-Way Analysis of Variance statistical Procedures.

Out of the nine null hypotheses formulated, five were accepted, three were rejected and one could not be tested.

The findings revealed that there was a significant negative correlation between the number of involvement-oriented teaching methods and children's overall developmental scores (Pearson $r = .3851$, $P < .05$). The hypothesis was accepted. There was no significant difference between grade two, grade one and N.C.E. levels of teachers' qualifications and the children's overall developmental scores. ANOVA ($F = 153R$, $df 154$, $F = 8576$, $p = n.s.$). The hypothesis was accepted. There was a significant positive correlation between children's overall developmental scores on the rating form and the variety of teaching equipment and materials (Pearson $r = .3136$, $p < .05$). The hypothesis was rejected.

There was a significant difference between the children's overall developmental scores in programmes using Seminary PREC curriculum guide and those that are not using it. The one-way ANOVA showed ($F = 15.2997$, $df = 154$, $P < .05$). The hypothesis was rejected.

There was no significant relationship between the children's overall developmental scores in programmes with children enrolled in the church's Sunday school organization and those with a smaller percentage of children enrolled in Sunday school (Pearson $r = .0185$, $p = n.s.$). The hypothesis was accepted.

There was no significant correlation between children's overall developmental scores in CWEE programmes that used study committees and those that did not (Pearson $r = .0029$, $p = n.s.$). The hypothesis was accepted.

There was no significant correlation in children's overall developmental scores and the use of an administrative committee in running the programme. The hypothesis could not be tested because all of the CWEE programmes use administrative committees.

There was no significant relationship between the children's overall developmental scores and teacher/helper: child ratio (Pearson $r = .1176$, $p = n.s.$). The hypothesis was accepted.

There was a significant positive correlation between children's overall developmental scores and high level of parental involvement in the programme (Pearson $r = .2156$, $p < .05$). The hypothesis was rejected.

The following recommendations were given for administration of the CWEE programmes.

1. The Preschool teachers should be trained to teach preschoolers. In-service training and workshops should be provided for teachers.

2. Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary PREC curriculum guide should be studied, secured and used by CWEE programmes, because it is developmentally appropriate and has a spiritual plus.

3. Study committees should be trained and used.

4. Developmentally appropriate teaching methods of preschoolers should be studied and used.

5. Equipment and materials should be provided in the following areas: art, blocks, books, home living, nature, toys and puzzles.

6. A teacher and a helper is recommended for twenty preschoolers.

7. Parents should be involved in the CWEE programmes by being substitute teachers, repairers, resource persons and drivers for field trips. There should be parent-teacher conferences where children's strengths, progresses and weaknesses could be discussed personally and privately.