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## APPENDIX A: INFORMATION SHEET



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### **INFORMATION SHEET**

**Project Title:** Exploring Foundation Phase teachers' experiences and perceptions of the challenges that impede school readiness.

#### **What is this study about?**

This is a research project being conducted by Keila Vilanculo, a masters Psychology student, under the supervision of Dr Athena Pedro at the University of the Western Cape. We are inviting you to participate in this study because your participation may provide us with a better understanding regarding the Foundation Phase teachers' experiences and perceptions of the challenges that impede school readiness of foundation phase learners. The purpose of this research project is allow you to explain your experiences relating the challenges encountered in the classroom with learners who are not ready for school and the programmes that can be used to assist these children.

#### **What will I be asked to do if I agree to participate?**

You will be asked to participate in an individual semi-structured interview through online video platforms such as Zoom, Skype, or WhatsApp to provide information about your experiences of having children who are not ready for school in your classroom, the challenges you encounter with these children, how the school performance of learners affect them at a later stage, and programmes that can be used in assisting children with poor performance. The study will be conducted in Randfontein, Gauteng Province, and the interviews will take a minimum of 25-30 minutes.

**Would my participation in this study be kept confidential?**

The researchers undertake to protect your identity and the nature of your contribution. To ensure your anonymity, names will not be used and no one will know what you have shared during the interview. Only the researchers involved in the research study will have access to information for data collection and analysis purposes. To ensure your confidentiality, all data will be kept safe and stored in a well-protected cupboard. All of the participants are encouraged to maintain confidentiality. If we write a report or article about this research project, your identity will be protected by including pseudonyms instead of your real name.

All of the data will be stored on a password-protected computer. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences. We will do our best to reduce risks (if there are any) and act promptly to assist you if you experience any discomfort, psychological or otherwise during the process of your participation in this study. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

**What are the risks of this research?**

All human interactions and talking about yourself or others carry some amount of risks. We will nevertheless reduce such risks and act promptly to assist you if you experience any discomfort, psychological or otherwise during the process of your participation in this study. Where necessary, an appropriate referral will be made to a suitable professional for further assistance or intervention.

**What are the benefits of this research?**

A benefit of your participation includes creating awareness to all practitioners and the Department of Basic Education and building on research literature on the significance of ensuring that children are ready for school in South Africa in order for the Department of Basic Education to implement more policies and support programmes that can aid in school readiness of children. The results of this study aims to serve as a good base on which future studies can be conducted regarding the poor school performance that is due to poor school readiness.

**Do I have to be in this research and may I stop participating at any time?**

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to participate in this research, you may stop participating at any time. If

you decide not to participate in this study or if you stop participating at any time, you will not be penalized or lose any benefits to which you otherwise qualify.

### **What if I have questions?**

This research is being conducted by Keila Vilanculo, a master student in Psychology under the supervision of *Dr Athena Pedro* at the University of the Western Cape. If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact Dr Athena Pedro at: 021 959 2825, email: [aspedro@uwc.ac.za](mailto:aspedro@uwc.ac.za); [4078276@myuwc.ac.za](mailto:4078276@myuwc.ac.za). Should you have any questions regarding this study and your rights as a research participant or if you wish to report any problems you have experienced related to the study, please contact:

#### **Dr Maria Florence**

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#### **Prof Anthea Rhoda**

Dean of the Faculty of Community and Health  
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#### **Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee**

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This research has been approved by the University of the Western Cape's Human and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (Reference number: HS20/6/26)



## APPENDIX B: CONSENT FORM



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### CONSENT FORM

**Title of Research Project:** Exploring Foundation Phase teachers' experiences and perceptions of the challenges that impede school readiness.

The study has been described to me in a language that I understand. My questions about the study have been answered. I understand what my participation will involve and I agree to participate of my own choice and free will through online video platforms such as Zoom, Skype, or WhatsApp. I understand that my identity will not be disclosed to anyone. I understand that I may withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and without fear of negative consequences or loss of benefits.

\_\_\_ I agree to be [videotaped/audiotaped/photographed] during my participation in this study.

\_\_\_ I do not agree to be [videotaped/audiotaped/photographed] during my participation in this study.

**Participant's name**.....

**Participant's signature**.....

**Date**.....

## APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW GUIDE

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### INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

#### Section A: Demographic information

Foundation Phase teachers demographic information					
Age:		Gender:		Nationality:	
Race (tick which option best describes you):					
African	White	Coloured	Indian	South African born Chinese	Other
Highest Qualification held:					
Years of teaching experience:					

## Section B: Interview guide (English)

- **Explore the challenges that impede the school readiness of foundation phase learners of low-to-middle background.**
  1. What do you understand by “school readiness”?
  2. Explain how one is able to tell if a child is ready for mainstream school?
  3. What would you consider a ‘well prepared’ child for school to be?
  
- **Explore the consequences of poor school readiness on learner’s school performance.**
  1. What are the long lasting consequences of children who are poorly prepared and unable to adapt to formal learning environment?
  
- **Explain the challenges encountered in the classroom by teachers regarding learners with poor school readiness.**
  1. What are the common challenges you experience as a teacher when a child under performs academically?
  2. How does a child’s underperformance affect or influence your teaching methods for the whole class of learners?
  3. How do you monitor or assess a learner’s performance?
  4. What are the skills needed by the teacher to understand how a learner may improve in the classroom alongside his or her peers?
  
- **Identify the available programmes used to assist children with poor scholastic performance**
  1. What are the possible solutions that you can recommend to improve school readiness of foundation phase learners?
  2. What support do you receive from the school and education department to assist you as a foundation phase teacher?
  3. How would you guide or recommend children’s parents or guardians to assist their children to achieve school readiness?
  4. What should be implemented at early childhood development centres to assist children with meeting school readiness requirements?



## APPENDIX D: SCHOOL PERMISSSION LETTER



**UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE**  
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Primary School Name

Date

Dear Principal

### PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH STUDY AT YOUR SCHOOL

I, Keila Vilanculo, am a student from the University of the Western Cape. I would like to conduct a research study in the area of school readiness. The study is aimed at exploring Foundation Phase teachers' experiences and perceptions of the challenges that impede school readiness. The objectives are to (1) explore the challenges that impede the school readiness of foundation phase learners of low-to-middle income background; (2) explore the consequences of poor school readiness on learner's school performance; (3) explain the challenges encountered in the classroom by teachers regarding learners with poor school readiness; (4) identify the available programmes used to assist children with poor scholastic performance.

I would like to invite Foundation Phase teachers to participate in this study. This will include an interview of approximately 25-30 minutes via a video conference platform due to Covid-19 pandemic, with each participant who agrees to participate. I would like to conduct the interviews between August 2020 and October 2020.

The project has received ethics clearance from the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of the Western Cape (Reg. No. HS20/6/26). Should you agree to participate, I will request permission from the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) to conduct the study at your school. Information sheet and consent forms will be distributed to the participants, which provides information on the nature of the study and that their participation is entirely voluntary.

Please feel free to contact the details below should you have any queries in this regard.

Sincerely,

Keila Vilanculo

Department of Psychology,

University of the Western Cape

Email: 4078276@myuwc.ac.za

Contact number: 021 959 2825

