Statement of Purpose

I intend to apply for a Ph.D Program in Child Development at Erik Erikson institute, Loyola University Chicago for the fall of 2014.

**Motivation and Purpose**

Studying the Child Development at the Master’s degree opens several doors for me to discover the other aspects of educating children. I learned that it is not about caring only; it is also about sharing, educating, parenting, and upbringing a child who is a fundamental part of any great and successful society. As a child developmental, we are equally important with Researchers, Engineers, and Doctors. The reason is that we build societies by educating the prospective generations.

Being a Saudi woman, I aim for a radical change in understanding and implementing the concept of child development in Saudi Arabia. This change will be achieved by continuing studying this felid to be more versed of child development, and applying that during the study. In fact, am a child who is never went to kindergarten, never taught to share things, never be socially engaged with others out of my comfort zone even my siblings. A result of all that, I grow up love doing things by myself, not understanding the concept of participation. And other problems that by the time still suffer form. However, most of girls at my age, who went to kindergarten, had no better performances neither academically, nor socially. This means that the kindergarten did not impact them.

**Academic background**

*Undergraduate study:* I majored in Home Economics from the Art and Seines School of King Khilad University, located Abha City in Saudi Arabia. The major included several subjects, such as: Art Education, Statistics, Growth Psychology, Teaching Methodology, Islamic Moral, Kindergarten and Nurseries, Nutrition in Different Age Stages, Child Care, and others.

My performance of both academic courses and extracurricular activities was obviously high as it is shown on my official transcript. I obtained a great chance during my last two years of college to teach Art Seines at Intermediate School, and Culinary Arts at High School. I also acted as the assistant to the Principle of both Intermediate and High Schools, in completing some of administrative works. In 2009, I completed the program with Honor Degree with a 4.3 grade point average out of 5.

*Graduate Study:* After I successfully completed my undergrad, I got a fall scholarship from the Saudi Culture Mission to continue my education. Since my undergrad major included difference fields, I got chance to study several courses of Business concentration on Hospitality at Johnson & Wales University, located at Providence, RI. However, I truly did not find myself in this field because of my undergraduate was more in education than in business, I love dealing with people not numbers. For these reasons, I decided to transfer to Southern New Hampshire University, located at Manchester, New Hampshire, where I pursued my Master’s degree in Child Development Administration from School of Education. I surly obtained a quite education during the Master’s degree journey, where I got several opportunities to observe children from different culture backgrounds. Moreover, I have attended many classes beside on technological tools, that is, to see how to integrate technology to any lesson. On April 2013, I was pleasure to attend Young Child Expo and Conferences in New York City. The conference encouraged me to continue my education along with my ambition to learn more about children, who are the the flower of life and adornments, and the joy of souls. We see the hope in their smiles, the ambition in their eyes, and the future in their movements. They promote us to advancement, teach us not to despair, enrich our lives with their presence. All these reasons and more are compelling reasons to consider as a source of thinking

At the end of the master program, in particular, the Practicum course, I have determined to write a research paper titled “The Child Development In The Light Of Islam”. Many reasons have influenced me to write this topic. Some of these reasons are to educate people about the Child Development Concept from Islamic perspective. Also, to present and combine different aspects of Child Development, which include play, undernutrition, learning, art, and poverty. On September 2013, I completed the Master’s Degree of Child Development, and I obtained a 3.97 grade point average out of 4.

**Prospective Goals**

Bystudying Child Development, I aim to achieve the following goals:

* To identify the role of kindergartens in developing the values ​​of pre-school children.
* To develop an educational curriculum for bilingual kindergarten to be able to do its duty to the fullest educational.
* To develop a teaching method that combines both concepts: play and learn, in order to enhance the cognitive development of bilingual children.

**Objectives**:

All objectives are beside on my prospective goals, as follows:

**Plan for professional study and my future career**

On May 2013, I was interviewed by several prestigious universities on Saudi Arabia for a Lecturer position, such as: Hail University, King Abdulaziz University, and King Khaild University, which is the one I graduated from. By accepting the job, I will be obtained a full scholarship to continue my education in the United States.

**Research Interests**

During my studying, I have always been interested on the cognitive development of bilingual children that is because of observing my two nephews and my friends’ children. I have been in satiation where I found a huge gap between teaching a bilingual child, who learns the second language before the mother language, both languages. During my research, I found out that mastering the first language will make learning the second language much easier, because the individual is gaining the experience to learn the language in general. Also, it has been shown that children who learn a second language before the first language proficiency suffer from weakness in the first language and the second language alike. For this reason, I would like to do further research in this regard. How can child developmental and educators develop methods to overcome this obstacle. All that is a result of believing that a bilingual person is more mature than others. This maturity is a result of viewing other civilizations and cultures. This leads to a general level, where the bilingual person affects the society positively by encouraging people to learn other languages. A result of that is having a cultured community.

Since I am a Saudi and international candidate, I have always interested on differentiation of cultures, how that does not hide parental love, and how dose culture shape our way of thinking. I have wrote my cultural autobiography using the Bronfenbrenner’s theory, which is defined the environment around the child to layers, and how each layer affects the child’s development.

**Work experience**

As it is obvious in all my provided documents, I just graduated last month on September 1st, and before that, in particular, my undergraduate, I got a full scholarship right after my graduation. For this reason, I have not got a chance to actually work; however, I have been always surrounded by children who I really, sometime, found myself implementing what I have studied. Moreover, being a child from a Saudi family, my upbringing in Arabian culture is totally different from other nations. In this culture, every member of the family is responsible of his/her family members without any order of the parents; it is something clear and normal in any family, which can be called “being a part of the family” concept. As I have mentioned previously, being a child of Saudi family, I am always surrounded by siblings, cousins, and family friends’ children. This environment has shaped my personality and enhanced my ability to be accountable and dependable person. To be honest, I consider that as one of greatest work experience.

**Reason of applying**

I have read your program information description, and feel the Child Development Ph.D Program should be suitable and compatible to me. The purpose of my applying for a place at your university is precisely to acquire the depth of knowledge and sophistication of methodology to attain a superior level of expertise by way of strict training.