**Darisha La Watoto Kwa Africa (Children's Window of Africa): Advancing the African Arts to Make the Future Brighter for the African Child**

**Co-authors:** Anthony B. Mitchell, Sr. (Ed.D.), Penn State University &

 IAsia Eybers-Thomas, (M.Ed.), Culturally Responsive Education

**Email:** Anthony B. Mitchel1 abm2@psu.edu – Corresponding Author & IAsia Eybers-Thomas Eybers.crae@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

The Darisha La Watoto Kwa Africa (Children's Window of Africa) is an innovative, culturally specific program for children of African descent. The program utilizes both traditional African culture (language, rituals, songs, dances, music,) social practices (Kindezi, Sadulu, and Zola), the Five Star Family Enhancement Plan developed by Dr. Wade Nobles for the Association of Black Psychologist (ABPsi), and Afrocentric/African-centered educational methodologies (philosophy, worldview, history, culture) to provide arts education to children of African descent. During the pandemic, the Five Star Family Enhancement Plan provided a powerful demonstration of love and healing support in the African world community.

This article presents the program's history, mission, curriculum, and cultural and social practices. In addition, it discusses Afrocentric education terminology and the program's "Ibada Ya Kifungu" (Rite of Passage) for its teaching artists. This passage employs master-teacher-elders as trainers and utilizes Dr. Asa G. Hilliard's development of core principles for supporting educators' development as "African" teachers. The artists' assessment of their Afrocentric/African-centered educational experience and their performance illustrate the important role African arts play in fostering healthy racial identity and affirming cultural development of children of African descent. This article concludes with findings that affirm the importance of implementing Afrocentric education for children of African descent in the African world community**. Keywords: Africanisms, African cosmology, African worldview**