



# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Dek Noi Pattana Foundation



## A REFLECTION

By Pongwattana Piromchirayhukun

“During this school break, I got a cool chance from the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation to visit two ECD (Early Childhood Development) centers in Surin province on April 3-4, 2024. It was my first time in Surin, and I was amazed by all the elephant sculptures and cows in the rice fields.

At the Ban Yang Sri-tawann ECD center, I saw teachers and kids doing outdoor exercises energetically. The place was tidy with lots of toys neatly arranged, and the walls were decorated to match the toys. I watched Khun Kru Lek reading a story called "The Naughty Baby Elephant" to the kids, using different voices for different emotions. It was super engaging, even for me! I had a chat with Khun Kru Lek and learned that she's been teaching for over 30 years because she loves kids and enjoys teaching them, hoping they'll have a bright future.

One awesome thing I heard about was that the kids can borrow storybooks to take home. They read these stories with their parents or grandparents, which not only keeps their imagination going but also creates a cozy atmosphere at home. This is important for raising quality people in the future.

Although I only had the chance to visit two ECD centers, it brought back memories of my time at a private preschool in Bangkok. My pre-kindergarten experience was similarly characterized by cleanliness, safety, and attentive care for the children, much like what I witnessed at these centers.

I enjoyed the trip so much and would like to thank the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation for the opportunity to explore and broaden my real-life experience, and for showing me that there's always space to help fulfill the dreams of children, especially those in remote areas.”

*Pongwattana is a Grade 8 student (Mathayom 2) at Bodindecha (Sing Singhaseni) School in Bangkok. His father, who is a member of the foundation team, accompanied him on this trip.*





## ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN SURIN PROVINCE

By Vintas Piromchirayhukun

On April 3, 2024, the DNPF management team, led by Mr. Ian Porter, Chair, met with Khun Kittichai Ketwongsa, Chief of Surin Provincial Office of Local Administration, to discuss the progress of Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiatives in Surin province supported by DNPF, and explore avenues for further collaboration. The discussions focused on devising a strategy for scaling up on-going initiatives to benefit all 552 ECD centers in the province.

Throughout the discussion, Mr. Porter underscored the remarkable strides made within Surin Province, particularly evident in the advancements achieved across the 18 model centers. Notably, the efforts of both the Ban Yang Sri-tawan and Ban-Sa ECD centers emerged as excellent examples of effective partnership and dedication among stakeholders. The recent acknowledgment of Surin's educational initiatives in a World Bank report has not only validated these efforts but also positioned the province as an excellent example of educational innovation and cooperation in the region. This recognition further emphasizes the indispensable role played by collaboration among various stakeholders, including education officials, the Faculty of Education of Surindra Rajabhat University (SRRU) and local communities, with DNPF's steadfast support.

Khun Kittichai reaffirmed Surin's unwavering commitment to educational transformation, articulating plans to extend improvements to all 552 centers in the province. Recognizing the critical need for capacity building and knowledge dissemination, **Assistant Professor Dr. Ajarn Kanoun Saikaew**, DNPF's Chief Technical Advisor and Team Leader,

emphasized the importance of empowering centers through coaching programs. The meeting also strongly supported initiatives aimed at engaging Rajabhat University students and harnessing the expertise of model centers in supporting neighboring centers.

Looking ahead, the agenda includes two significant events poised to further catalyze progress in ECD within Surin Province. The training event scheduled for May 6-10, 2024, in collaboration with SRRU, promises to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building among teachers. Subsequently, the pilot facilitation workshop slated for May 13-17, 2024, aims to enhance leadership skills, with a specific focus on enhancing the engagement of all stakeholders at the community level in supporting high quality ECD. These events signify a proactive approach towards ensuring the continued success of ECD initiatives in Surin Province.



Assistant Professor Dr. Kanoun Saikaew  
DNPF's Chief Technical Advisor and Team Leader

By Anuje Sirikit

## A JOURNEY TO STORYTELLING



This year bi-annual teacher training session focused on techniques for storytelling to enhance Executive Functions skills by **Ajarn Preeda Panyachand**, who recently received Esan Heritage award 2024, for children literature, a team from New International School (NIST) and **Khun Suradda**, from Karbchoeng community in Surin.



### Why do children enjoy storytelling?

Ajarn Preeda emphasized that children love stories as they are introduced to new creatures and places. He encouraged ECD teachers to read to children every day to open their world of imagination and learn about the world around them.

Through the guidance of Ajarn Preeda, the teachers were very happy, and their confidence grew as they can make their own flap book story for children to enjoy and learn simple words. At the request of the teachers, DNPF will invite Ajarn Preeda to handle an advance training for teachers on children literature.



### Techniques To Storytelling With A Team From New International School.

1. Communicating with children by asking simple questions. What happened on this page?
2. Repeating the question with children.
3. Introducing new words and phrases.

### Community Story Telling

Khun Suradda and her husband from Karbchoeng community quickly built a bond with the participants by telling stories related to their communities and blending stories with musical movements and leaving participants to think about the moral message behind each story.



## ASSESSMENT OF ECD CENTERS:



Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF) in collaboration with Surindra Rajabhat University (SRRU) and Surin Provincial administration recently made awards to five ECD centers in recognition of their achievement of model center status (see table 1). The assessment is done on a voluntary basis whereby five centers have applied early this year to be assessed by an independent team commissioned by DNPF. These centers have met three sets of National Standard benchmark, namely the quality of the management of ECD center, the performance of teachers and children skills development. The results are most encouraging, with so many of the children able to meet the national standards for two and three-year-old children by the end of the school year.

It is expected that other centers out of the eighteen centers being developed as model centers will apply for an assessment next year.

### ASSESSMENT RESULT

Early Childhood Development Center	Management of ECD center	Teachers/ caretakers	Quality of Children 2 to 5 years old	Average
Sri-suk SAO ECD center	91.66	96.42	100	96.03
Ban Jarn ECD center	91.66	92.85	85.71	90.07
Narong SAO ECD center	95.33	96.42	92.85	94.87
Ban Panom Din	91.66	96.42	96.42	94.83
Ban Yang Sri-tawan	91.66	92.85	100	94.84
Ban Muang Kae	87.50	95.83	92.85	92.06

## PARTICIPATORY LEARNING IS FUN!

Deknoi Pattana Foundation in collaboration with Surindra Rajabhat University and Surin Provincial Administration held a facilitation skills workshop for sub-district deputy chief executives, community leaders, parents, ECD teachers, and education committees during 13 to 17 May 2024.

The workshop focused on helping participants develop the facilitation skills needed to effectively communicate with their communities and concerned government officials. The content used during the training included coverage of executive functions skills, self-esteem and positive discipline.



The resource team from Lampang Community Foundation was excellent in guiding the participants to apply tools and techniques of participatory learning process. On the last day of the workshop, as participants' confidence grew, representatives were selected to facilitate the meeting in front of the head of Surin Provincial Administration and presented their plan of action for their SAO.

The workshop received very positive feedback from the participants. They gained hands on practice in facilitation skills and designing of participatory learning process. In future they will be able apply the facilitation techniques that they learned from the workshop and communicate effectively with their communities.

