



## All sectors sign MOU to support a sustainable future for early childhood development in Surin Province

**Kanoung Saikaew**

DNPF's Chief Technical Advisor

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the future of early childhood development in Surin Province marks an important step toward uniting all sectors to improve young children's quality of life sustainably. This initiative brings together key local partners, including educational institutions, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, Surin Rajabhat University, the Surin Provincial Office for Local Administration, the Surin Provincial Office of Education, Surin Primary Educational Service Area Offices 1, 2, and 3, the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF), and local government organizations. Together, they aim to help young children in Surin grow and thrive through four main mechanisms:

- 1 developing model early childhood development centers to raise standards for education and care under local government organizations;
- 2 promoting Executive Function (EF) skills through learning experiences that strengthen children's cognitive development;
- 3 establishing mentoring and coaching systems to build the capacity of teachers and education personnel in systematic early childhood development; and

- 4 integrating child well-being by connecting data and collaborating with public health networks to ensure age-appropriate health and nutrition support.

This collaboration lays a strong foundation for young children in Surin Province to grow into capable citizens who can contribute to a sustainable society. It supports age-appropriate development, strengthens Executive Function (EF) skills, and promotes good health. Early childhood development centers will benefit from safer, more systematic care standards, while children in remote areas will gain better access to quality early childhood education. ECD teachers will also build their skills through mentoring, gain new knowledge and techniques, and use developmentally appropriate monitoring tools and teaching materials. In addition, a learning network between model centers and network centers will encourage knowledge sharing among teachers. These efforts will help agencies and communities work together more smoothly, use budgets more efficiently, reduce duplication, strengthen communities, and support parents in raising children appropriately. Through the "Six Parties" coordination mechanism, MOU commitments can be translated into practical action in local areas, supported by clear structures, policy mechanisms, and governance.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### Knowledge Sharing

Centers and network centers encourage knowledge sharing among teachers.

#### Efficiency & Impact

Efforts will help agencies and communities work together more smoothly, use budgets more efficiently, and reduce duplication.

#### Stronger Communities

Strengthen communities and support parents in raising children appropriately.

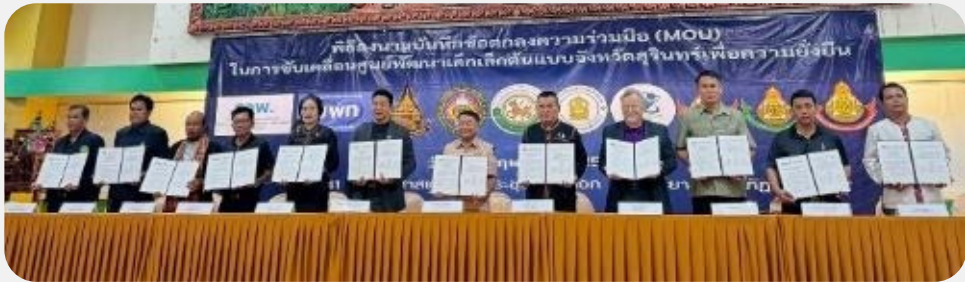
#### Practical Action

Through the "Six Parties" coordination mechanism, MOU commitments can be translated into practical action in local areas, supported by clear structures, policy mechanisms, and governance.

The Governor of Surin Province, together with the Provincial Office for Local Administration and the Provincial Education Office, will coordinate the overall implementation of the MOU. Academic support will be provided by the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surin Rajabhat University, while mentor and mobile coaching teams will work closely with teachers and parents in early childhood development centers. Local government organizations will

lead area-based management, with the ECD centers serving as the main units for early childhood education management. The private sector, civil society networks, NGOs, and the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF) will support teams of experts and academics to strengthen teaching techniques and improve teachers' capacity. Families and communities will also be engaged to enhance education quality and build a sustainable early childhood learning ecosystem.

The signing of the MOU for the sustainable future of early childhood



development in Surin Province reflects strong cooperation among key agencies to systematically improve the quality of early childhood education management. It also aims to strengthen teachers' and caregivers' knowledge, skills, and capacity, while empowering parent and community networks to

take shared ownership and participate actively in caring for children. Together, these efforts will help advance early childhood development in Surin Province smoothly and sustainably.

# The story of early childhood and the enduring hope of the Early Childhood Development Center

**A reflection from Khun Pawina Watanapa**  
Thailand Education Partnership (TEP)



At the Regional Experience Sharing Forum, held under the theme “Igniting Early Childhood Development, Transforming Isaan’s Future” on January 28–29, 2026, at Kantary Korat Hotel in Nakhon Ratchasima, the author had the opportunity to work with the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF) for the first time as a rapporteur and observer. This experience opened a new window into early childhood education in Thailand and revealed the remarkable progress being made in early childhood development, especially in the Northeast. This progress has been driven by strong collaboration among network partners, including the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), UNICEF Thailand, the World Bank, and the Khon Thai Foundation, who have worked together to advance policy and share academic

knowledge for children’s benefit. The initiative covers five provinces—Surin, Roi Et, Kalasin, Khon Kaen, and Nakhon Ratchasima, with the shared goal of transforming Early Childhood Development Centers into joyful, high-quality learning spaces that support the growth of children as the nation’s future.

“*Together, we build brighter beginnings for every child and a strong future for our nation.*”



# The power of 'Baan Jarn' and 'Baan Narong' ECD centers

The journey to understand early childhood development went beyond the conference room in Korat. The author was given the opportunity to conduct document research to analyze contextual data and practices from different areas, as well as to conduct comparative case studies in 5 provinces.

On May 5-9, 2019, in collaboration with the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF), to delve into the operation of the Model ECD centers at 'Ban Charn' and 'Narong', which are one of the model centers distributed in 17 districts.

The author had the opportunity to meet and discuss with the local authorities, community leaders, school leaders, ECD teachers, caregivers, and parents who have joined the Foundation on a journey to develop teaching and learning. Most importantly, the author visited the actual locations of the two ECD centers, how 'Early Childhood Development' is really in-action, and how happy the teachers at these centers are every day.

What impressed the author most was the strong sense of "shared ownership" within the community. In Surin Province, the management and development of Early Childhood Development Centers did not begin with directives from the central government but grew from the collective commitment of local partners. Parents

their responsibility, working closely with local leaders. Together, these efforts transformed the "Child Care Center" into a true "Child Development Center" for the community.

The change is further supported by try-and-true example cases from 5 provinces in Isaan, whose outstanding



and elders sought to understand Executive Functions (EF), while the SAO chief executive supported building renovations, playground construction, and regular center visits. Teachers took pride in creating joyful classrooms, and education officers cared deeply for the centers under

performance not only highlight key enabling factors for effective early childhood development (ECD) implementation, but also present strong possibilities for systemic expansion of ECED.

## Impressions from visiting the operations of the Dek Noi Pattana Foundation in Surin Province

**Matumon Katerenchuk and Pasatree Chomwong**

Save the Children Thailand

Last month, I had the opportunity to visit several Early Childhood Development Centers in Surin Province with Khun Pasatree, including Ban Charn ECD Center in Sangkha District and Narong SAO ECD Center in Srinarong District, both of which participate in a model center program with DNPF. The visit showed us the commitment of all sectors to working together to improve the quality of early childhood education and build a strong foundation for

children in the community.

What impressed us most was DNPF's working process, which encouraged ECD centers to apply voluntarily and jointly prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This approach gave teachers and staff a genuine sense their quality and strengthen parents' trust within the community.



Although the visit took place during the school holidays, the quality of the center’s operations was evident in the readiness and cooperation of center management, the Sub-district Administration Organization (SAO), teachers, parents, and other stakeholders. They came together to share information and present their work in person. The meeting was friendly and reflected their pride and commitment to further improving the centers.

Another admirable aspect was the teachers’ confidence and professionalism in presenting their work and explaining the centers’ learning management approach. Each teacher clearly described the activities, information, and goals for children’s development, demonstrating a strong understanding of early childhood development principles, as well as care, compassion, and dedication to the children. This confidence reflects DNPF’s ongoing capacity-building efforts and the academic support that strengthens teachers’ professional expertise.

In addition, we observed the children’s learning outcomes through well-designed learning environments and activity stations suited to each age group. The centers offer a variety of activities that support children’s physical, intellectual, emotional, mental, social, language, and communication development through active and play-based learning. These approaches encourage creativity, critical thinking, and hands-on exploration. The availability of modern learning materials and play equipment creates an environment that supports learning in every dimension and reflects thoughtful attention to providing experiences that truly meet children’s developmental needs.

DNPF has played an important role in connecting and strengthening these networks, contributing to concrete improvements in ECD center quality and children’s development.

“  
*This visit helped us realize that improving the quality of early childhood development requires cooperation from all sectors, including support agencies, administrators, teachers, parents, and communities.*  
 ”

### Conclusion and Impressions

- 1 DNPF’s strong commitment:** DNPF is dedicated to raising the quality of early childhood education to high standards comparable with international practices.
- 2 Shared ownership of development:** The cooperation process and MOU preparation encourage all parties to participate in driving meaningful change.
- 3 Strong collaboration among leaders, teachers, staff, and parents:** Their willingness to support center development reflects a shared desire to strengthen and expand cooperation in the future.
- 4 Teachers’ confidence and professionalism:** These qualities reflect continuous capacity development and dedication to providing children with high-quality learning experiences.
- 5 Well-prepared learning environments and materials:** Modern equipment, varied activity stations, and hands-on learning opportunities support children’s development and encourage meaningful learning.

Overall, the visit left a strong impression of collaborative work, teacher capacity development, and the creation of quality learning environments. These factors are essential to building a strong foundation for young children’s lives and supporting long-term, sustainable community development.



 Visit to Ban Charn Child Development Center, Sangkha District, and Narong SAO ECD center, Srinarong District.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

-  Strong collaboration between local authorities, teachers, parents, and communities.
-  Voluntary quality improvement driven by a shared commitment through the MOU process.
-  Increased teacher confidence and strengthened parents’ trust.