



Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES 2007

Profile of Agencies, Organizations and Institutions



Malaysia

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Definition of Icons and Terms

	Name of Organization, Agency or Institution
	Office Address/Mailing Address
	Contact Person/s
	Office Personal Phone
	Office Personal Telefax/Fax
	Office Assigned/Personal Email
	Office Telephone/Mobile Phone Number/s
	Office Fax Number/s
	Office Telefax Number/s
	Office Email Address/es
	Website
	Organization/Agency/Institution Type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government - <i>Agency belonging to the national government</i> • International NGO - <i>NGO with coverage in several countries</i> • National/Local NGO - <i>NGO based and operating in the country with national and/or local coverage</i> • Private - <i>Organization operated by a private group or individual</i> • Religious/Faith-based - <i>Organization operated by a religious group</i>
	Organization/Agency/Institution Category: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Org./Agency - <i>Organization that provides or delivers ECCD services to children 0-6 y.o. on health, nutrition, early childhood education, etc</i> • Academic Institution - <i>School, college or university that offers diploma, certificate or degree course/s on ECCD</i> • Training Center - <i>Facility that offers formal & non-formal ECCD training for individuals such as trainers, administrators, day care workers, teachers, parents, etc.</i> • Research Institute - <i>Institution dedicated to research in the area of ECCD</i>



Department of Social Welfare Malaysia

CONTACT INFORMATION



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CLASSIFICATION



National Government Agency



Service Organization/Agency

DESCRIPTION OF EXPERTISE

I. Policy Formulation

The development of early childhood care development programme in the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) was initiated in 1982 with the enactment of the Child Care Centre Act 1984 and the Alternative Child Care project funded by the Bernard Leer Foundation.

The Child Care Centre Act 1984 was formulated to ensure quality alternative childcare for children below the age of four years at childcare centres. All centres that take in more than 10 children for a fee are required to register with the DSW. The Act provides for guidelines on programmes and activities as well as minimum standards of management and administration of Child Care Centres. Major programme strategies for Child Care Centres in ensuring compliance to the Child Care Centre Act include:

1. Advocacy/ training programme
2. Programme formulation/ implementation for children
3. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme, and
4. Social mobilization/awareness campaign

The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development drafted a Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development that provides for the framework for ensuring the optimal and balanced development appropriate to the environment for children aged from birth to eight years. The objectives are to ensure that children get their rights in early care and education development, to enhance the effectiveness of family, community, NGOs, private sectors and government toward early care and education for their children and to establish quality services for early childhood care and education. In addition, the formulation of the Plan of Action to ensure the implementation of the Policy is also being undertaken. Major programme strategies of the Policy on Early Child Care and Development activities include:

1. Integration of ECCD priorities into national socio-economic development plans, and establishment of national inter-sectoral committees that also involved relevant government and non-government organizations focused on children;
2. Policy interventions – both direct and indirect – to promote better access to care, healthcare and education. ECCD monitoring tools to ensure the success of the plan and checklists to help the national government monitor progress in consultation with local governments and communities;
3. Coordination and collaboration among the multiple sectors and stakeholders, particularly with regard to harmonizing local and national ECCD plans and goals with regional and national commitments; and

4. To involve greater public awareness on ECCD policies and other policies for children. Recommendations provided for regional follow-up include developing regional guidelines on networking and collaboration among the community, including sharing of best practices; and inventory of existing policies on children.

II. Training

The DSW has formulated various training programmes on child care to cater to different target groups as below:

1. Basic Child Care Course which is mandated by law for center base child care provides;
2. Supervisors and staff in rural and plantation Child Care Centres;
3. Supervisors training package for rural and plantation supervisors of Child Care Centres;
4. Five (5) day Introductory course for home-based child care providers,
5. Training of welfare officers involved in child care and enforcement of the Child Care Centre Act 1984;
6. Training of trainers to be certified by DSW to be facilitators at the basic child care course.

At the end of 2006, the DSW has organized 33 training programmes and it is estimated that 1,214 childcare providers had acquired skills and knowledge in ECCD through the above trainings. To date the total number of registered child care providers all over the country is 3,867.

In order to facilitate and provide opportunity to attend the basic child care course throughout the country, the department since 2000 has embarked on identifying relevant training agencies to conduct the basic child care course. To date, the National Accreditation Committee based at the department Headquarters, has accredited 10 agencies to run the training.

III Advocacy

The Mass-media campaign on registration of Child Care Centres as required under the Child Care Centre Act 1984 was able to raise awareness on child rights and the importance of ECCD resulting in the Child Care Centre Programme being widely accepted and supported by the community, especially among working parents.

IV. Registration of Child Care Centres under the Child Care Centre Act 1984 (Amendment 2007).

Through the issuance of a Certificate of Registration, the DSW monitors the operation of the child care centres to ensure compliance with the Act. The Act stipulates that all child care providers must obtain Certification on Registration of Child Care Centres accredited by the DSW. At the end of 2006, the total number of registered Child Care Centres reached up to 1,831 accommodating 34,100 children as follows.

- 1,177 - Private Child Care Centres;
- 119 - Child Care Centers at work place in public sector; and
- 26 - Child Care Centers at work place in private sectors.

The Child Care Act 1984 has also been amended to improve quality care and facilitate registration of Child Care Centers as well as ensuring effective enforcement of the Act.

V. The Association of Registered Child Care Providers Malaysia (ARCPM)

The Association of Registered Child Care Providers Malaysia (ARCPM) is the national NGO registered with the Registrar of Societies and entrusted with ensuring quality alternative Child Care for children in Malaysia, in particular children below the age of four. It works closely with the DSW and receives an annual administrative grant from the department. In collaboration with the 14 State Associations, ARCPM which was set up in 1986 is working towards ensuring that children receive high quality care by professional care providers and/or their parents with the mission as below:

1. To advocate Quality Child Care through the setting up of a National Quality Improvement and Accreditation System (NQIAS) for Child Care centers and certification of professional care providers;
2. To facilitate professionalism of Child Care Personnel by working in smart partnerships with others to provide the infrastructure for the continuing professional development of care providers;
3. To facilitate the setting up of accessible and affordable Child Care by spearheading the setting up of community based Child Care Centres in partnership with government, private sector and the community for the benefit of low income families and children in crisis; and
4. To advocate to policy makers, private sector, public, communities and parents the need to invest in high quality early childhood care and development programmes that embrace best practices for the total well-being and development of our children.

ARCPM carries out a wide range of training programmes for parents and Child Care providers but in recent years the focus has been on creating public awareness of key critical issues affecting young children and in advocacy for a policy on early childhood care and development. ARCPM carries out training programmes as well as creating public awareness of key critical issues and advocacy on early childhood care and development.

1. Advocacy Networking

- Annual National Collaborative Meeting of State Associations and Dialogue Session with the Director General, DSW.
- Partner of the Malaysian Coalition of Partners Against Child Sexual Abuse for personal safety programmes.
- Representation at policy and programme implementation meeting with the Ministries of Women, Family & Community Development; Education; Human Resource; Health; Housing and Local Government; Entrepreneur Development; and others.
- Public Awareness programmes for parents on issues related to children in line with our Millennium “ Ensuring R.E.S.P.E.C.T for our Children”
- Celebration of Child Care Providers Day (May); Child Care Centres Day (August); Human Rights’ Day (September); and Children’s Day (October)
- Workplace Child Care Consultancy/ Mentor System for the setting up of Child Care Centres.
- Setting up of Community Based Child Care Centres, for the disadvantaged.
- Organization of National Child Care Conference and other public seminars.
- Research and Development on Child Care issues.
- Nutrition Package for Child Care Centres in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- Setting up of the national ECCD Resource Library & National Toy Library.

2. Training and Education

- Accredited Training Organization for the Basic Child Care Course, a compulsory certification by DSW for all child care providers.
- Training Provider for the Training of Coordinators and Training of Trainers for the Basic Child Care Course, DSW.

- Management Workshops for Operators related to child care operations including the setting up of quality child care centres.
- Outreach workshops to child care centre operators in collaboration with State Associations.
- In-House training for corporate/government child care centres.
- Skills Workshops for first aid, food handling, art, language, nutrition, music and movement and many more designed to enhance the caring and professional skills of care providers and parents.
- Training of Trainers Nutrition Package for Child Care Centres in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and healthcare professionals.







Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

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CLASSIFICATION



National Government Agency



Service Organization/Agency

DESCRIPTION OF EXPERTISE

- Policy maker on ECCD

ECCD-RELATED PROGRAMS/SERVICES/INITIATIVES

The Ministry reviewed the Childcare Centre Act 1984, which aims to regulate and stimulate the growth of the childcare industry since it proposed that the validity period for a registered childcare centre be extended from 12 months to 60 months. All childcare centres must employ qualified childcare providers for the benefit of the children. These childcare providers must undergo a basic childcare training before or during employment.

The Ministry finalized the Early Childcare and Development Policy together with its Plan of Action. This policy is a comprehensive document that enables the Government to create a favourable environment to nurture and develop children aged eight years (8) and below based on a Malaysian context and culture.

The Ministry is also in the final stage of developing a Quality Improvement Accreditation System or QIAS. This system defines quality care in childcare centres and provides a way to measure the quality and identify areas for on-going improvements. This new initiative will shift the focus from meeting minimum standards to striving towards the provision of quality childcare and education.

The Ministry managed to get the approval of the Government so that government departments that provide childcare centres at the workplace will be given RM80,000 grant for renovating and furnishing a childcare centre.

