

Preparing pre-school teachers

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PETALING JAYA: Education Ministry will be training a total of 21,000 pre-school teachers from 2010 to 2012 to increase the enrollment of children aged four and five in pre-schools to 87% by 2012 and 97% by 2020, as set under the Government Transformation Programme's (GTP) National Key Results Area (NKRA) initiative to improve student outcomes.

Education Ministry Teacher Professional Development Sector deputy director-general Datuk Asariah Mior Shaharuddin said pre-school teachers began their training last month in teacher training institutes (IPG), public tertiary institutions (IPTA) and private tertiary institutions (IPTS).

Asariah said the training was to raise the quality and professionalism of early childcare education in the country.

She said pre-school education should not be taken for granted because these children's future is a national responsibility.

"Building a strong educational foundation for our children is top priority for us and we are doing everything we can to raise the quality of pre-school teaching and the standard of our teachers," said Asariah.

To date, the first batch of 6,580 private and Department of National Unity and Integration (JPNIN) pre-school teachers have completed

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DATUK ASARIAH MIOR SHAHARUDDIN

training of which 3,299 have been trained by 10 IPTS and private training centres whilst the remaining pre-school teachers were trained by IPG and IPTA.

Each year, approximately 7,000 pre-school teachers who will be trained will come from all across the country, including Sabah and Sarawak.

The upskilling of the 7,000 plus pre-school teachers per year (for the next two years) is required as 93 percent of existing teachers currently do not have early childcare education (ECCE) certificates and there is a need to build the professionalism in early childhood education.



Quality childcare: The Education Ministry will be training pre-school teachers to ensure professionalism of early childcare education.