

Improving childcare education

Stories by NOEL CHANG

KUALA LUMPUR: Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the government, through its education transformation programme, is working towards enhancing the quality of childcare education.

One of the requirements would be for pre-school teachers to have at least a diploma qualification.

To date, Khaled said 93% of pre-school teachers in Malaysia are not formally trained and certified.

He said the lack of qualified teachers could be reduced if teachers in childcare centres and pre-schools are provided with sufficient training.

He said the ministry would be working towards ensuring all pre-school teachers undergo compulsory training to improve their capabilities by 2020.

The Education National Key Results Area (NKRA) sent 6,580 private pre-school teachers for training at private training centres for three weeks in 2010 while 6,421 pre-school teachers were trained in 2011.

This year, an additional 6,999 teachers will be trained by both the government and private sectors.

Khaled said the training would include teachers who are new in the industry as well as existing



Better trained: The Government is working towards ensuring all pre-school teachers have at least a diploma.

teachers who previously did not have formal training.

In August 2010, the Education Ministry established a set of standards for kindergarten and nursery

staff for raising the country's pre-school education to a global standard.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the

Education Minister, said the ministry is in the process of formulating a mechanism to ensure the success of its initiatives aimed at improving early childhood education.