

National Early Childhood Intervention Council

MAJLIS KEBANGSAAN INTERVENSI AWAL KANAK-KANAK



26, Lorong Canning, Canning Garden, Ipoh 31400, Perak, Malaysia. enquiries.necic@gmail.com

PRESS STATEMENT

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Enrolment Booster for Pre-Schoolers with Special Needs

We refer to the recent media advertisements by the government on fee assistance for pre-schoolers with special needs and grants to preschool education providers with special needs children. The National Early Childhood Intervention Council (NECIC) welcomes these great initiatives taken in reference to children especially those with special needs.

These are two positive tangible ways to ensure that ALL children irregardless of their learning disposition and capacity will receive education from the earliest possible age. The incentives will certainly encourage early childhood education operators to open their doors to children with special needs as they can now use the subsidy to engage the necessary personnel such as teaching assistants, inclusion experts and therapists, acquire specialised equipment and teaching aides as well as to send their teachers for special education training.

These supports will not only assist with the placement of the special needs children but will also enrich the classroom on the whole. Research has shown that additional special educational resources that are channelled into the inclusive classroom not only benefit the special needs child but also his or her typically developing peers.

We truly hope that preschool providers will take advantage and apply for this funding assistance. The fee subsidy will also remove the financial barriers for children with special needs from low-income families.

It is vital for children of all races and abilities to learn and play together. As inclusive education should start as early as possible, we welcome and applaud this move. Indeed, no child should be left behind.

Thank You.

Khor Ai-Na

Vice-President, National Early Childhood Intervention Council (NECIC)

Tel: 012-4324230