

The Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP)

The Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP) at Walailak University aims to enhance capabilities and reduce educational disparities for local early childhood students through quality curricula and research, contributing to the formulation of national early childhood education policies. The ECEEP is directly related to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education. It aims to guarantee that all individuals have access to quality education, ensuring that all boys and girls have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education, preparing them for primary education by 2030. The project plays a key role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the efforts of Walailak University and various sectors, including local administrative organizations, local early childhood development centers, provincial authorities, and private sector entities. The project aligns with indicator 4.3.4 of the THE Impact Rankings in Education, which undertakes educational outreach activities for both ad-hoc and program in early childhood development centers under local administrative organizations.

Program

The Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP) has a primary goal of developing human capital and reducing inequalities among early childhood children through high-quality curricula. The project's target group includes early childhood development centers under local administrative organizations in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, focusing on children aged 3 to 6 years. The ECEEP is divided into five phases:

1. Data collection on early childhood children in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, covering three aspects: students, parents, and school administrators.
2. Building collaboration between Walailak University, early childhood development centers, and local administrative organizations.
3. Development and training on the High Scope curriculum.
4. Monitoring and evaluation.
5. Conducting research for development and long-term data collection.

In fiscal year 2024, during the implementation of the 4th phase of activities, Walailak University undertakes educational outreach activity beyond campus by adjusting the learning processes at the Satit Walailak Pattana Community Early Childhood Development Center and Wat Koklek Early Childhood Development Center to align with the local community context. This

involved fostering a shared understanding among administrators, school committees, and teachers from the Thai Buri Subdistrict Administrative Organization's early childhood development centers.

The working group of the 4th Year Early Childhood Equity Education Project (ECEEP), under the School of Education and Liberal Arts, collaborated with the Department of Physical Therapy, the School of Allied Health Sciences, based on the outcomes of prior meetings. Together, they organized activities under the project "The Physical Therapy Project for Movement Development in Early Childhood in Communities Surrounding the University." In addition to promoting cognitive development in early childhood through the High Scope curriculum, the project also focused on enhancing motor skills development by creating programs for young children with below-average developmental potential. Furthermore, it developed programs aimed at achieving excellence in motor skills among children and elevating these centers to become model early childhood centers, excelling in both education and health. These centers would nurture children into high-quality human resources. The target group involved in the project showed a 40% improvement in executive function (EF) skills, as evidenced by an increase of 0.40 standard deviations from their baseline performance prior to engaging in the High Scope-based learning approach (age-appropriate developmental benchmarks).

Ad-hoc

The project team, in collaboration with administrators and teachers from the Thai Buri Subdistrict Administrative Organization, organized the ad-hoc activities including home visits to young children. Additionally, they worked with the Wat Khok Lek Early Childhood Development Center to provide support and data to the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organization), which contributed to the center's successful completion of external quality assurance, particularly in early childhood center management. The center received excellent scores for its management performance presentation to stakeholders. Furthermore, the project team disseminated the outcomes of their efforts at social engagement exhibitions focused on community service and local research, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to inform the public and representatives of agencies in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.