



The Dek Noi Pattana Foundation and Early Childhood Development in Thailand

1818 Society,
29 November 2022

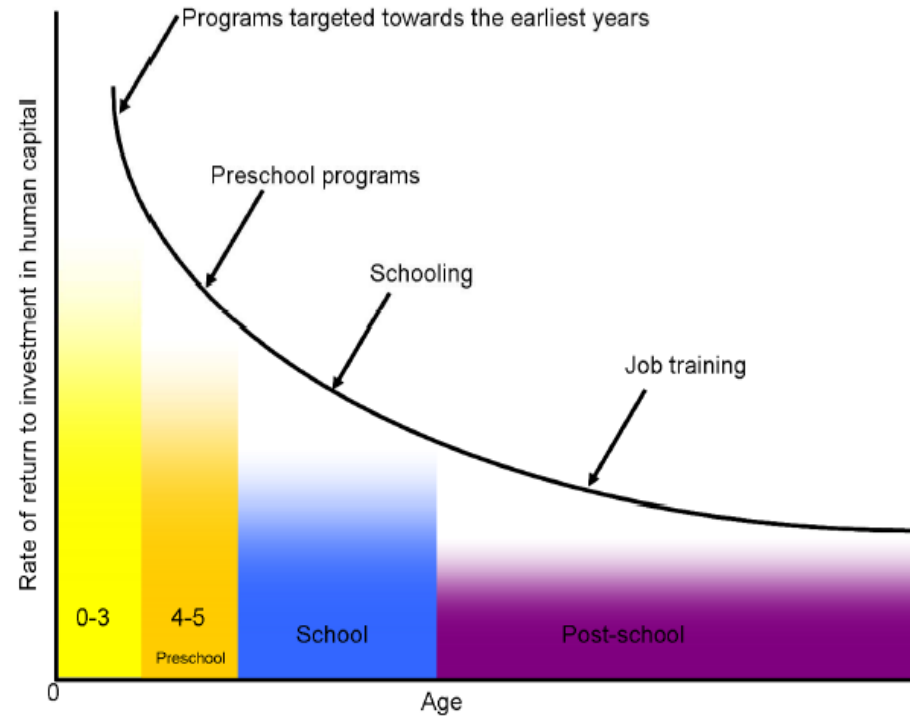
International Experience Confirms Importance of Early Childhood Development

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Why is
ECD so
important?
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- ▶ Early years of childhood affect the developing architecture of the brain with 85% of a child's brain network wired in the first five years of life
- ▶ In this context, high quality early child development (ECD) programs can bring significant benefits to young children, especially those from poorer families
- ▶ Analysis of such programs internationally shows that the returns far exceed the returns of other development ventures, including investments in other levels of education
- ▶ Research also shows that children retain the skills (social, emotional, physical and intellectual) that they learn in early childhood



High Returns to Investments in Early Learning



**INVEST STRONGLY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS,
EVEN IF PAYOFF IS ONLY 20+ YEARS FROM TODAY**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
MALLEABILITY**

**BUILD STRONG
FOUNDATIONS FOR
FURTHER LEARNING**

**PREVENT EARLY
DAMAGE / AVOID LOSS
OF POTENTIAL WHICH
CANNOT BE REMEDIATED**

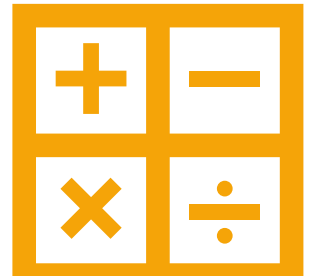
Huge Opportunity for High Quality ECD Programs In Thailand

Existing Strengths -- many of ingredients for successful programs already in place:

- ▶ 19,000 day care centers in operation throughout Thailand; managed by local governments and attended by children 2-4 years old
- ▶ Children reasonably well nourished and eager to learn;
- ▶ Parents, grandparents, communities and local governments supportive;
- ▶ Significant financial resources available

Challenges:

- ▶ Caretakers/teachers generally not able to implement high quality ECD programs;
- ▶ Families, communities and local authorities not sufficiently engaged in supporting centers;
- ▶ Challenging family situations make ECD even more important



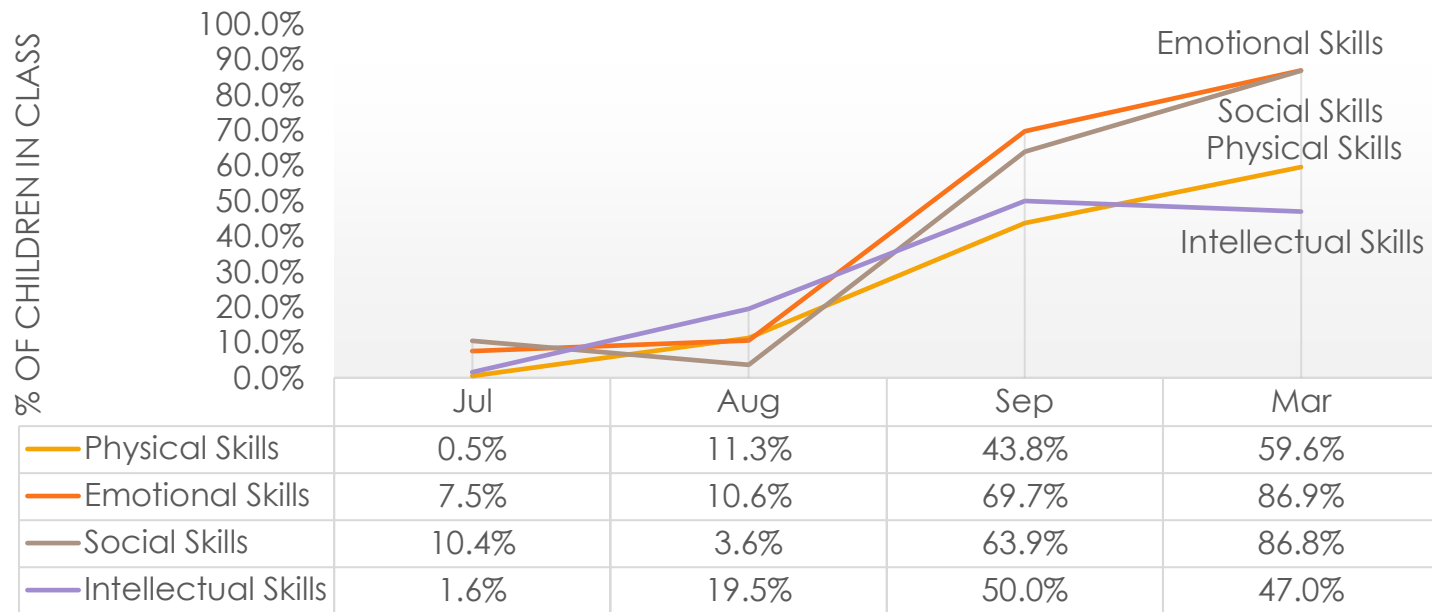
High Quality **ECD Pilot Project** Implemented in Surin, one of the poorest provinces in Thailand

- ▶ Focused on following objectives:
 - ▶ First, training and coaching teachers/caretakers to implement a high quality integrated ECD program that excites and empowers the children
 - ▶ Second, ensuring that the program helps develop the potential of all children in an integrated manner (physical, intellectual, emotional, and social)
- ▶ Components included: teachers development; lesson plan and instructional material development; improvement of physical environment of centers; and child development assessment
- ▶ Implemented by high quality team with financial support from private companies and individuals and financial and management support from the local and provincial government
- ▶ Achieved excellent results over three phases while moving from support for one center to support for seventeen centers



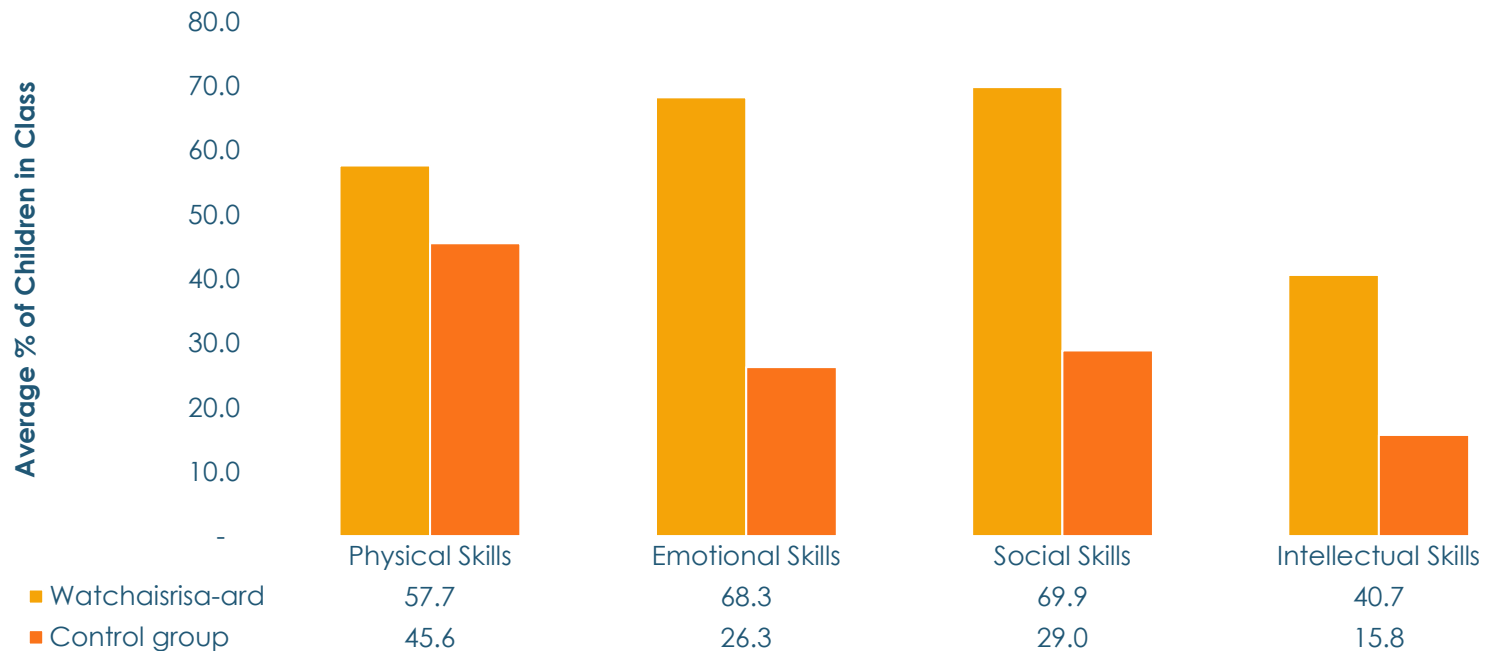
First Phase of Pilot Project Achieved **Excellent Results**

Proportion of Children
Able to Perform Key Skills Independently
at Watchaisrisa-ard Learning Center,
July 2014 – March 2015



First Phase of Pilot Project Achieved **Excellent Results**

Proportion of Children
Able to Perform Key Skills Independently
Watchaisrisa-ard Learning Center vs. Control Group
January - March 2015

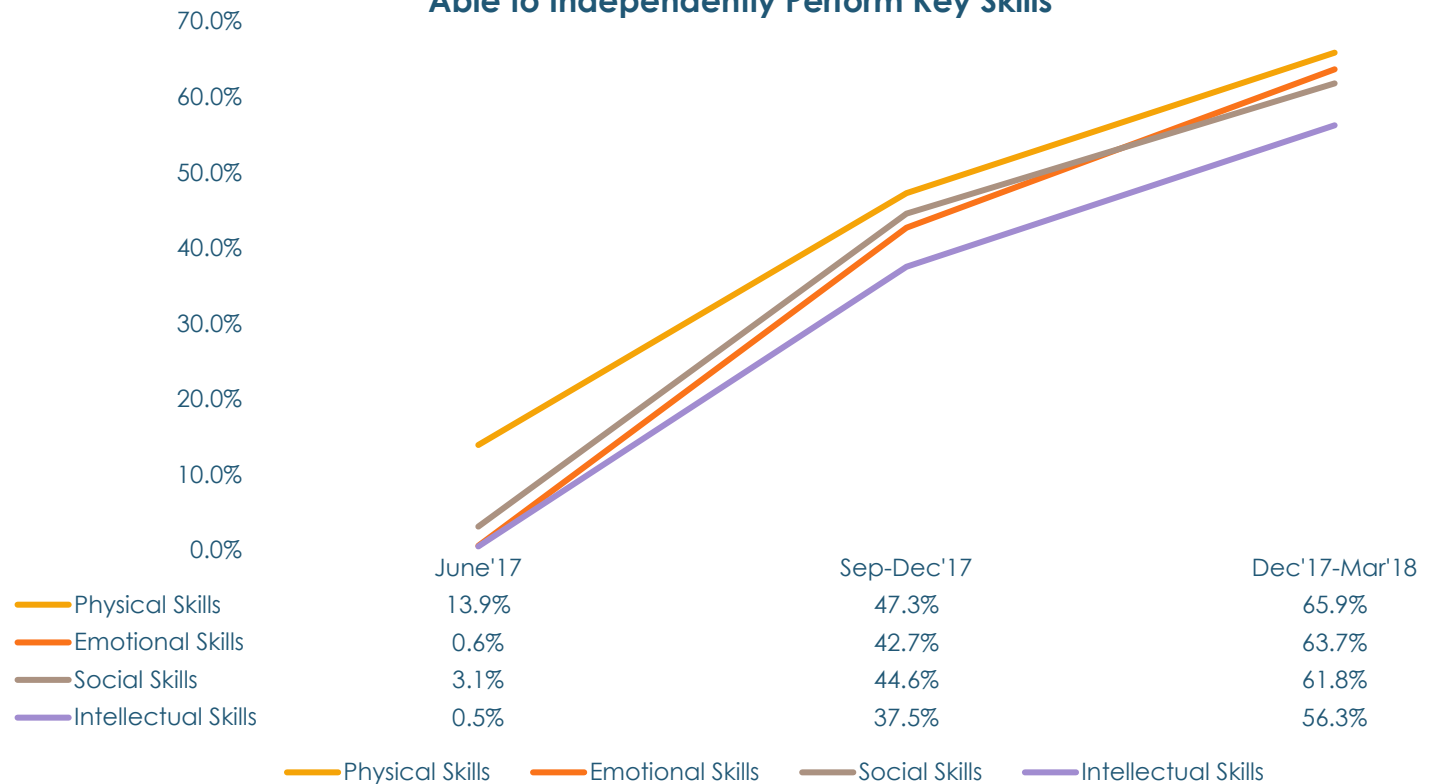


Second and Third Phases of Pilot Project Showed Continued Excellent Results – e.g. Third Phase

Our Vision

All Thai children benefit from a high-quality early childhood development program.

Proportion of Children in 17 Development Centers/Classes Able to Independently Perform Key Skills



Success of Pilot Project Led to Establishment of Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF)



- ▶ Success of pilot project led to request from Surin Governor and others for further roll-out
- ▶ Dek Noi Pattana Foundation (DNPF) established in November 2017 with overall mission to:
 - ▶ Pilot innovative projects for teaching training and coaching and engagement of parents and communities that are focused on children's empowerment
 - ▶ Support local authorities and other stakeholders in replicating, scaling up and sustaining such projects across Thailand's 19,000 centers
 - ▶ Facilitate engagement of and interactions among key stakeholders in ECD at national and local levels to promote sustainability and increase public awareness of both the importance and the urgency of enhancing the quality of ECD for all Thai children
- ▶ DNPF partnering with Surin provincial government, Surindra Rajabhat University (SRRU), Surin Office of Basic Education, local authorities and communities to develop model centers in each district from which other centers can learn; DNPF also working with National Economic and Social Development Council and Department of Local Administration and other stakeholders at national and provincial levels

Achievements, Outcomes and Opportunities



- ▶ Achievements:

- ▶ Despite severe impact of COVID 19 pandemic DNPF/SRRU has continued to provide training and coaching to teachers and caretakers (often on-line) and to work closely with parents and communities to implement high quality ECD programs
- ▶ Also strengthened partnerships with broad range of partners at local, provincial, and national levels

- ▶ Outcomes:

- ▶ Teachers and caretakers across 23 centers in six districts (each center has between 20 and 140 children) better able to implement high quality ECD programs and more rapidly improve children's skills
- ▶ DNPF changing mindsets about importance of ECD and potential for rapidly improving its quality; also "unlocking" constraints in Thai system that constrain its ability to improve ECD (Surin Governor)

- ▶ Opportunities:

- ▶ Develop model centers in all seventeen districts in Surin; as well as in districts in neighboring provinces
- ▶ Initiate pilot projects focused on helping model centers continue to be model centers
- ▶ Integrate DNPF/SRRU experience into provincial and national plans for effective scaling up and technical and financial sustainability

Dek Noi Pattana Foundation and the World Bank Group

- ▶ Board of Directors includes a former Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education and the Chairman of one of Thailand's biggest private companies plus four former and current World Bank staff
- ▶ Management committee includes former Professor of Education at SRRU and former UNESCO official plus four former and current World Bank staff
- ▶ Project team led by former Professor of Education at SRRU and includes current members of Faculty of Education of SRRU, Thai experts in ECD, teachers from New International School of Thailand, project assistants with degrees in ECD, and former World Bank staff
- ▶ DNPF benefits from financial support from Thai organizations and Thai and foreign individuals, including through the World Bank Group CCC (DNPF is the only Thai nonprofit included in the CCC)
- ▶ For more information on DNPF, please visit our website: deknoipattana.org

