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PRESS RELEASE

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Child-Friendly Student Admission Process Creates a Positive Start for Early Childhood Learners

Semarang, Central Java, July 5, 2026 – Laughter and cheerful voices filled the orientation room at TK 'Aisyiyah Terpadu Birrul Walidain in Kudus, Central Java. Instead of being tested on reading or mathematics, children were welcomed through play, social interaction, and activities designed to help them become familiar with their new school environment.

This child-centered approach reflects the implementation of Indonesia's New Student Admission System (*SPMB – Sistem Penerimaan Murid Baru*) for Early Childhood Education (PAUD), where the admission process serves not only as an administrative procedure but also as the beginning of a meaningful partnership between schools, families, and children.

For parent Eni Uswati, enrolling her youngest daughter through SPMB was a reassuring experience.

"The registration process was simple. We only needed to submit the birth certificate, family card, and photographs. After the documents were verified, parents and children participated in an orientation session. The children participated in a play-based initial assessment so teachers could understand their personalities and developmental needs," she said.

Eni's confidence in the school was built on experience. Her three older children also attended the same institution and benefited from its supportive learning environment.

"The teachers genuinely care for every child. My older child, who used to be very active, became more focused and independent, and developed positive daily habits. We hope our youngest child will also build a strong foundation in character, knowledge, and independence for the next stage of education," she added.

Another parent, Fathur Rohman, shared a similar experience after his son completed the school's playgroup program.

"The admission process was welcoming. Parents received clear information, while children were introduced to the school through enjoyable activities. Early childhood education is not about accelerating academic achievement, but about helping children become independent, responsible, and strong in character," he explained.

Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Abdul Mu'ti emphasized that early childhood represents the most critical stage in a child's lifelong learning journey.

"Almost every educational theory recognizes that the first seven years of life are the most influential period in human development. Early childhood education provides the foundation for all future learning," the Minister said.



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To strengthen this foundation, the Government of Indonesia has incorporated Early Childhood Education into the 13-Year Compulsory Education policy. The government has also expanded educational support through the Smart Indonesia Program (*Program Indonesia Pintar/PIP*) to include eligible kindergarten students from low-income families while continuing to improve the competencies of early childhood educators.

The Minister also stressed that young children should not be burdened with academic expectations beyond their developmental stage.

"Kindergarten children should not be burdened with excessive academic demands. Early childhood education is a space where children learn through play, build confidence, develop social and motor skills, establish positive habits, and strengthen their character," he said.

This philosophy is reflected in the implementation of SPMB at TK 'Aisyiyah Terpadu Birrul Walidain. Principal Ami explained that the school provides transparent admission information while establishing strong collaboration with parents from the very beginning.

"We want every parent to understand our school's vision, curriculum, and collaborative approach. Kindergarten is not a place where children compete to read earlier than others. It is where they develop moral values, character, and readiness to learn," she said.

Meanwhile, Lelly, Chair of the SPMB Admission Committee, noted that registration services are available both in person and online, including through WhatsApp, making the process more accessible and convenient for families.

"Our goal is simple: parents should feel confident and comfortable when enrolling their children. We provide multiple communication channels, accompany parents throughout the registration process, and ensure every application is carefully verified," she explained.

The implementation of a child-friendly SPMB for Early Childhood Education demonstrates that student admission is more than an administrative process. It marks the beginning of a collaborative effort among schools, families, and the government to nurture children's character, independence, and love of learning. By introducing education through play, children are given a positive, meaningful, and enjoyable start to their educational journey.

**Bureau of Communication and Public Relations Secretariat General
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