



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program

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Vision for Children and Families:

“All children in the CNMI will be safe, healthy, and thriving members of our culturally diverse community. Their families will have access to the high quality supports they need to achieve their potential.”

Early Learning and Development Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers
February 10, 17, 24 & March 2, 2024

On March 3rd, a successful sixteen-hour long training on *Early Learning and Development Guidelines* (ELDG) concluded at the Evergreen Learning office in Chalan Kanoa. Evergreen Learning’s Technical Assistance Specialist, Russelle Mae Ignacio, facilitated this four-day training series which began on February 10. Fifteen (15) teachers from various childcare facilities in Saipan took part in this professional development.

The ELDGs are similar to roadmaps designed to provide guidance and support for educators and caregivers involved in the early childhood development of infants and toddlers. The ELDGs span different areas of how infants and toddlers grow and learn such as how they approach learning, their social and emotional skills, language and reading, thinking abilities, and physical development. Each area has goals and steps that describe what children should learn and do at different ages. These areas of development are linked, meaning progress in one area can help with progress in others. The ELDGs offer a variety of strategies to nurture children's growth across all these areas during their crucial early years of life.

This training helps child care teachers implement their newly learned knowledge and skills. They can now incorporate the ELDGs into their curriculum allowing them to create supportive learning environments based on the guidelines.

This training was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, and the CNMI Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

