

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

## Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program

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## 2024 CNMI Children Matter Month Symposium, Saipan!

On Saturday, June 08, 2024, the CNMI Brain Builders, through the Science of Early Learning Initiative celebrated the 2024 CNMI Children Matter Month Symposium, at Saipan World Resort, Royal Taga Hall Room.

The purpose of the CNMI Children Matter Month activities and events was to allow the community and stakeholders to dedicate some time to recognize the children of the CNMI, their growth, and overall development.

The CNMI Brain Builders team connected and collaborated with partner agencies to engage in conversations about services that are currently available for children and families. Through this type of collaboration, the team, along with partner agencies were able to identify and share current support systems and resources that are available to help parents/guardians and families build their capacities and reach their highest potential, as their children's first and most important caregivers.

Furthermore, the Symposium activities and events provided an opportunity for parents/guardians, families, partner agencies, early childhood educators, and home-center based providers to participate in discussions in amplifying the importance of early learning, and realizing what it takes as a community to guide and nurture children's overall development.

All activities and events offered during this Symposium were aligned with, and support the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Vision, the Science of Early Learning (SOEL) Initiative Goals, and community-based needs in the field of Early Childhood Learning.

In this celebration, the CNMI Brain Builders along with the community honored four-year old, Tamia "Mimi" M. Manglona, through a special tribute offered by SmartStart Nurturing Center. Immediately after the tribute, Congressman TJ DLC. Manglona, Mimi's father, delivered his special tribute speech in honor of his daughter. Mimi passed away sometime after she attended the 2023 CNMI Children Matter Month Proclamation Signing Event.

The CNMI Brain builders wishes to express its gratitude to all CCDF and CNMI Brain Builders partners who offered their support through presentations and/or exhibits.

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