



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



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## Child Care Providers Attend School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Training Series

Evergreen Learning Coach, Erlaine Evangelista, conducted a three hour training cohort series on the School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Updated Version (SACERS-U). The sessions were scheduled over three Saturdays – June 10, 17, and 24. Six afterschool providers from three different child care centers in Saipan attended this cohort.

SACERS-U is a rating scale designed to assess quality interactions and environment for children of school age 5 to 12 during their out-of-school-time. The scales assess what children directly experience in their programs that influences their development, including interactions that occur between staff and children and among the children themselves. Also assessed are the interactions children have with the many materials and activities in the environment, as well as those features (e.g. space, schedule and materials) that support these interactions.

During the training, participants had the opportunity to determine their program priorities and write concrete goals for further quality improvement practices on a sample Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) for their school age program. A QIP is a document that helps a provider identify their areas of strengths and areas of improvement and allows them to create a specific plan for achieving their goals towards improving their practices. Both QIPs and SACERS-U self-assessment are required under Star 1 of Reach Higher CNMI – the CNMI's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Reach Higher CNMI helps identify quality child care programs using a Star Level system from star 1 through 5. The higher the star level, the higher a program implements quality practices.

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