



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

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### School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Updated Version (SACERS-U) Training Series

Evergreen Learning Coach, Erlaine Evangelista, conducted a training series on the *School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Updated Version (SACERS-U)*. The sessions were scheduled over three Saturdays – December 2, 9, and 16 for a total of 8 hours. 17 afterschool child care providers from six different child care centers in Saipan attended this training series.

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 conduct a self-assessment on their practices using the *SACERS-U* scale. In addition, child care providers attending the training had a chance to practice writing concrete goals in a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) document. This document 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.

This training is available through CCDF's Reach Higher CNMI, initiative, the CNMI's version of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). A systematic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early childhood and school-age care and education programs. It is made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, CNMI CCDF Program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

