



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."

The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old Training for Child Care Providers Cohort 3

On August 17, 2024, 08 child care providers from Northern Marianas International School and SmartStart Nurturing Center completed the training series on *The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old*. These training sessions were facilitated by Evergreen Learning Training and Development Specialist, Grace M. Mallari, from August 03, 2024 to August 17, 2024.

The Growing Brain is an innovative course that provides a toolkit of how the brain develops step-by-step, neuron-by-neuron. The series of 7 in-person units provides explanation of brain processes and the effects of outside influences.

This training curriculum covers: 1) both the architecture and neurobiology of brain development 2) supporting language, cognition, prosocial behavior, and social-emotional development, and 3) reducing toxic stress that can negatively influence brain development of very young children.

On behalf of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program, and Evergreen Learning, the CNMI Brain Builders Team extends its congratulations to Judy Ann Manuel, Mary Jane Viola, Maggie Arcega, Marlyn Gutierrez, Nova C. Ochoa, Lovely May Mansilungan, Melany T. Gallardo and Mari Louise De Guzman for successfully completing The Growing Brain: From Birth to 5 Years Old training series.

This training is available through CCDF's Science of Early Learning Initiative, also known as *CNMI Brain Builders*. 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.

