



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.”

Leaders Leading the Way to Reach Higher!

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, twenty-two (22) participants comprised of Child Care Directors, Administrators, and QRIS Leaders completed an Orientation/ Overview of the CNMI Early Learning and Development Guidelines (CNMI ELDG).

The CNMI ELDG were adopted by a team of professionals in September of 2021, through the CNMI Preschool Development Grant (PDG), and are intended to foster collaboration amongst early childhood systems of care, where young children may spend their first five years of life at home with their families, in friend or family care, in family childcare, childcare centers, or any early childhood setting, prior to arriving at kindergarten.

The CNMI ELDGs include a broad description of children’s learning and development and provide examples of strategies and resources that are designed to support parents, families, caregivers, and early childhood educators. The guidelines can be used to improve knowledge of child development and learning, inform age-appropriate expectations for children’s development and learning, establish goals for children’s development and learning that are shared across programs and services, and guide plans for developing curricula and activities.

The guidelines are based on research about what young children should know and be able to do to succeed in school. They describe how children progress across key areas of learning and development. They help adults better understand what they should do to guide and nurture children and provide effective learning experiences that support desired learning and development outcomes. Early childhood programs are encouraged to use the guidelines to guide their decisions in curriculum planning, make proper selections of age and developmentally appropriate learning materials, plan daily activities, and make decisions for intentional teaching practices and implementations.

Child Care Directors, Administrators, and QRIS Leaders can use the guidelines to elevate their support systems for teachers. They can use the guidelines as they further promote child learning and development, and to help strengthen teachers’ skills, as they execute the implementation of the guidelines, to help strengthen children’s learning and growth for school readiness.

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