



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
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"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."

School Age Childcare Environmental Rating Scale (SACERS-U) – Training Series

March 8, 15, and 22

Beginning March 8th, 15 afterschool child care providers from six different child care centers in Saipan attended the *School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale Updated Version (SACERS-U)* training series. The training sessions were scheduled over three Saturdays – March 8, 15, and 22 for a total of nine hours. Evergreen Learning Coach, Erlaine Evangelista, conducted this training series at the Evergreen Learning Office located at Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

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.

Child care providers attending the training experienced using the scale (SACERS-U) to conduct their own self-assessment for their afterschool program. In addition, participants learned how to write specific concrete goals under areas of improvement in their Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) document.

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.

