



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5246

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ESCUDERO, ANGARA, ALMARIO, PIAMONTE, EJERCITO, GARIN (S.), GULLAS, PICHAY, GOLEZ (A.), TREÑAS, ARNAIZ, VILLAR, RAMOS, JAVIER, VILLARICA, OCAMPO, CASTRO, TINIO, MERCADO (R.), AGYAO, DALOG, OLIVAREZ, ESPINA, FLORES, TEVES, PALATINO, SARMIENTO (M.), LAGDAMEO (M.), AUMENTADO AND MERCADO-REVILLA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1405

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AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE EARLY YEARS FROM ZERO (0) TO SIX (6) AS THE FIRST CRUCIAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THIS PURPOSE STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, RENAMING THE DAY CARE CENTER AS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Early  
2 Years Act (EYA) of 2011”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of  
4 the State to promote the rights of children to survival, development and special  
5 protection with full recognition of the nature of childhood and as well as the  
6 need to provide developmentally appropriate experiences to address their

1 needs; and to support parents in their roles as primary caregivers and as their  
2 children's first teachers.

3 The State shall institutionalize a National System for Early Childhood  
4 Care and Development (ECCD) that is comprehensive, integrative and  
5 sustainable, that involves multisectoral and interagency collaboration at the  
6 national and local levels among government, service providers, families and  
7 communities; and public and private sectors, nongovernment organizations,  
8 professional associations and academic institutions.

9 This System shall promote the inclusion of children with special needs,  
10 and advocate respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. It shall be anchored  
11 on complementary strategies for ECCD that include service delivery for  
12 children from zero (0) to age six (6), educating parents and caregivers,  
13 encouraging the active involvement of parents and communities in ECCD  
14 programs, raising awareness about the important efforts that improve the  
15 *quality of life for young children and families.*

16 It shall also be the policy of the State to recognize the early years from  
17 zero (0) to age (6) as the first crucial stage of educational development.

18 *SEC. 3. Objectives. – The objectives of the National ECCD System*  
19 *are:*

20 (a) To achieve improved infant and child survival rates by ensuring  
21 that adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children  
22 and their parents, from the prenatal period throughout the early childhood  
23 years;

24 (b) To enhance the physical-motor, socioemotional, cognitive,  
25 language, psychological and spiritual development of young children;

26 (c) To facilitate a smooth transition from care and education provided  
27 at home to community or school-based setting and to kindergarten and primary  
28 school;

1 (d) To ensure that young children are adequately prepared for the  
2 formal learning system and that both public and private schools are responsive  
3 to the development needs of these children;

4 (e) To establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention,  
5 referral and intervention for the wide range of children with special needs from  
6 zero (0) to six (6) years;

7 (f) To upgrade and update the capabilities of service providers and  
8 their supervisors to comply with quality standards for various ECCD programs;

9 (g) To reinforce the role of parents and other caregivers as the primary  
10 caregivers and educators of their children especially from zero (0) to six (6)  
11 years;

12 (h) To enhance and sustain the efforts of communities to promote  
13 ECCD programs and ensure that special support is provided for poor,  
14 disadvantaged and linguistic minority communities; and

15 (i) To improve the quality standards of public and private ECCD  
16 programs through, but not limited to, a registration and credential system for  
17 ECCD service providers.

18 SEC. 4. *Definitions.* – For purposes of this Act:

19 (a) *Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System* shall refer  
20 to the full range of health, nutrition, early education and social development  
21 programs that provide for the basic holistic needs of young children from zero  
22 (0) to age six (6), and to promote their optimum growth and development.  
23 These programs include:

24 (1) Center-based programs, such as the day care service established  
25 under Republic Act No. 6972, hereinafter referred to as the child development  
26 service, public and private pre-schools, kindergarten or school-based  
27 programs, community or church-based early childhood education programs  
28 initiated by nongovernment organizations or people's organizations,

1 workplace-related child care and education programs, child-minding centers,  
2 health centers and stations; and

3 (2) *Home-based programs*, such as the neighborhood-based play  
4 groups, family child care programs, parent education and home visiting  
5 programs.

6 (b) *ECCD Service Providers* shall include the various professionals,  
7 paraprofessionals and volunteer caregivers who are directly responsible for the  
8 care and education of young children from zero (0) to six (6) years through the  
9 various center and home-based programs. They include, but are not limited to,  
10 day care workers hereinafter referred to as child development workers, child  
11 development teachers, teacher-aides, rural health midwives, social workers,  
12 community health workers, barangay nutrition scholars, parent effectiveness  
13 service volunteers and family day care providers.

14 (c) *ECCD Curriculum* shall refer to the developmentally appropriate  
15 educational objectives and practices, programs of activities, organized learning  
16 experiences, recommended learning materials and appropriate assessment for  
17 children that are implemented by service providers through center and  
18 home-based programs. It shall consist of national program goals and  
19 guidelines, instructional objectives, and content outlines that are  
20 age-appropriate, individually appropriate and culturally-relevant.

21 (d) *Parent Education* shall refer to the various formal and alternative  
22 means of providing parents with information, skills and support systems to  
23 assist them in their roles as their children's primary caregivers and educators.  
24 These include public and private parent education programs linked to center,  
25 home and media-based child care and education programs.

1           SEC. 5. *System Framework and Components.* – The ECCD System  
2 shall include the following components:

3           (a) *ECCD. Curriculum.* – Focuses on children’s total development  
4 and takes into account age, individual and sociocultural appropriateness. It  
5 shall promote the delivery of complementary and integrative services for health  
6 care, nutrition, early childhood education, sanitation and cultural activities.  
7 It shall use the child’s first language as the medium of instruction.

8           (b) *Parent Education and Involvement, Advocacy and Mobilization of*  
9 *Communities.* – Harness and develop parents’ strengths as providers of  
10 ECCD programs at home, as active partners of other stakeholders, as advocates  
11 for community concerns that affect children, and as pillars of support for local  
12 and national ECCD programs through community organization efforts.

13           (c) *Human Resource Development Program.* – Establishes  
14 mechanisms for the systematic professionalization of ECCD service providers,  
15 through enrollment in educational programs in site-based or distance education  
16 modes, through pre-service or in-service training including continuing  
17 education programs, whereby a registration and credential system shall be  
18 developed in the ECCD System.

19           (d) *ECCD Management.* – Focuses on a continuing process of  
20 *planning, implementation, supervision, financial management, monitoring,*  
21 *evaluation and reporting to persons concerned.* It shall encourage the active  
22 involvement and build the capabilities of service providers, parents and local  
23 government officials to sustain the program, and it shall be guided by the  
24 principles of decentralization as stipulated in the Local Government Code of  
25 1991 and the principles of shared governance in the “Governance of Basic  
26 Education Act of 2001”.

1 (e) Quality Standards and Accreditation. – Ensures that each  
2 component in the ECCD System complies with national quality standards to be  
3 established by the ECCD Council linked to an accreditation process.

4 SEC. 6. *Expanding the ECCD System.* – The National ECCD System  
5 shall be expanded to all provinces, cities/municipalities and barangays as may  
6 be determined by the ECCD Council to achieve universal ECCD coverage for  
7 all children from zero (0) to six (6) years.

8 SEC. 7. *Implementing Arrangements and Operational Structures.* –  
9 The implementation of the National ECCD System shall be the responsibility  
10 of the ECCD Council.

11 (a) Responsibilities of the ECCD Council. – The ECCD Council shall  
12 be responsible for developing policies and programs, providing technical  
13 assistance and support to the ECCD service providers and monitoring of  
14 ECCD service benefits and outcomes.

15 The Department of Education (DepED), the Department of Social  
16 Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the  
17 National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the Union of Local Authorities of the  
18 Philippines (ULAP) shall jointly prepare annual ECCD work plans that will  
19 coordinate their respective technical assistance and support for the National  
20 ECCD program. They shall consolidate the following existing program  
21 implementing guidelines that ensure consistency in integrated service delivery  
22 within the National ECCD System.

23 (1) The DepED shall promote the National ECCD program in schools.  
24 ECCD programs in public schools shall be the joint responsibility of their  
25 respective school principal/school-head and parent-teachers associations  
26 (PTAs) within the standards set forth in the National ECCD System and under  
27 the guidance of the city/municipal ECCD Coordinating Committees for the

1 effective and equitable delivery of ECCD services. It shall also make available  
2 existing facilities of public elementary schools for ECCD classes.

3 (2) Private pre-schools shall be registered by the Council upon the  
4 recommendation of the city/municipal ECCD Coordinating Committees.  
5 Nongovernment organization-initiated community, church, home and  
6 workplace-based service providers shall be registered by the Council upon the  
7 recommendation of the city/municipal ECCD Coordinating Committees. These  
8 public and private ECCD service providers shall operate within the standards  
9 set forth in the National ECCD System.

10 (b) *Responsibilities of Local Government Units.* – Local government  
11 units (LGUs) shall be primarily responsible for:

12 (1) Implementing the National ECCD System by providing basic public  
13 ECCD programs;

14 (2) Supporting the organization of parent cooperatives to initiate the  
15 establishment of ECCD programs;

16 (3) Ensuring that service providers of public ECCD programs under  
17 their supervision shall be justly compensated, that adequate funds are  
18 available, and their working conditions are conducive to fulfill national quality  
19 standards; and

20 (4) Providing funds for the training and continuing education of ECCD  
21 public service providers.

22 (c) *Responsibilities of Families and Communities.* – Families and  
23 communities shall support the local ECCD programs by participating in  
24 various projects for the overall development of their children from zero (0) to  
25 six (6) years.

26 **SEC. 8. *Strengthening the ECCD Council.*** – The ECCD Council shall  
27 be strengthened to ensure the State's focus on building a strong foundation for  
28 the development and learning of children during the early years from zero (0)

1 to six (6) years, to support the full range of health, nutrition, early education  
2 and social development programs for the child's holistic development and  
3 ensure sustained interagency and multisectoral collaboration.

4 SEC. 9. *Organization of the ECCD Council.* – The ECCD Council  
5 shall be composed of:

6 (a) ECCD Governing Board. – The ECCD Governing Board shall be  
7 headed by a Chairperson with the salary grade and emoluments of a cabinet  
8 secretary to be appointed by the President, and shall have as members the  
9 heads of the:

- 10 (1) Department of Education (DepED);  
11 (2) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);  
12 (3) Department of Health (DOH);  
13 (4) National Nutrition Council (NNC); and  
14 (5) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP).

15 In addition, one (1) private individual who is an ECCD practitioner and  
16 expert shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the  
17 Board.

18 The heads of the concerned departments, agencies and institutions shall,  
19 as much as possible, attend the meetings of the Board. In their absence, they  
20 must designate a permanent representative with a rank not lower than an  
21 Undersecretary or its equivalent who may attend and participate at meetings of  
22 the Board.

23 The Board shall meet once a month or as often as necessary.

24 (b) Council Secretariat. – There shall be established an ECCD  
25 Secretariat headed by an Executive Director to be appointed by the President  
26 upon the recommendation of the Board. The Executive Director shall have the  
27 rank, privileges and emoluments of a Career Executive Service Officer I.



1           There shall be created two (2) permanent positions of Deputy Executive  
2 Directors to be appointed by the Board, one of whom shall be concerned with  
3 ECCD programs and activities and the other with general administrative  
4 services of the ECCD Council.

5           The Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Directors shall be  
6 assisted by a designated ECCD Focal Person from the DepED, the DSWD, the  
7 DOH, the NNC and the ULAP, and by technical staff as may be necessary to  
8 achieve the goals and objectives of the National ECCD System.

9           SEC. 10. *Functions of the ECCD Council.* – The ECCD Council  
10 shall implement the National Early Childhood Care and Development System  
11 and perform the following functions:

12           (a) Promulgate policies and implementing guidelines for ECCD  
13 programs in consultation with stakeholders, including the regional level when  
14 appropriate, consistent with the national policy and program frameworks as  
15 defined in this Act;

16           (b) Establish ECCD program standards that reflect developmentally  
17 appropriate practices for ECCD programs, which shall interface with the  
18 kindergarten and primary school curriculum of the DepED;

19           (c) Develop a national system for the recruitment, registration,  
20 continuing education and equivalency, and credential system of ECCD service  
21 providers, supervisors and administrators to improve and professionalize the  
22 ECCD sector and upgrade quality standards of public and private ECCD  
23 programs;

24           (d) Develop a national system of awards and recognition to deserving  
25 ECCD program implementers and service providers;

26           (e) Promote, encourage and coordinate the various ECCD programs of  
27 the DepED, the DSWD, the DOH and the NNC, and monitor the delivery of  
28 services to the ECCD program beneficiaries nationwide;

1 (f) Evaluate and assess the impact and outcome of various ECCD  
2 programs nationwide through an effective information system;

3 (g) Develop and establish a national system for early identification,  
4 screening and surveillance of young children;

5 (h) Develop and implement various support mechanisms that maximize  
6 the public and private resources for implementing ECCD programs, giving  
7 priority to the needy and high risk children from poor communities;

8 (i) Provide funds to poor and disadvantaged communities for the  
9 establishment and expansion of public ECCD programs, improvement of  
10 physical facilities and for hiring of ECCD service providers;

11 (j) Promote and encourage private sector initiatives for the  
12 establishment of ECCD programs;

13 (k) Provide guidelines for the conduct of solicitations and requests for  
14 assistance from local and international civic organizations, and private  
15 philanthropic foundations to supplement available resources; and

16 (l) Perform such other functions as the ECCD Council may deem  
17 necessary.

18 SEC. 11. *Annual Report.* – The ECCD Council shall, at the close of  
19 each calendar year, submit an annual report to Congress, giving a detailed  
20 account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and making  
21 recommendations for the adoption of measures that will improve the National  
22 ECCD System and ensure achievement of universal coverage of ECCD  
23 benefits to all children from zero (0) to six (6) years.

24 SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Council, in  
25 consultation with appropriate government agencies and nongovernment  
26 organizations, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for  
27 the implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of  
28 this Act.

1           SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* — Republic Act No. 8980, otherwise  
2 known as the “Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act” is hereby  
3 repealed. Pertinent provisions of all laws, decrees, executive orders,  
4 presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or  
5 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
6 accordingly.

7           SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is  
8 declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity  
9 of the other provisions hereof.

10           SEC. 15. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
11 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)  
12 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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