

**[CWC COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 1, S. 2002,
APRIL 4, 2002, April 04, 2002]**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND
REGULATIONS (IRR) OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND
DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) ACT**

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government has declared a policy of the State to promote the rights of children to survival, development, special protection and participation with full recognition of the nature of childhood and its special needs;

WHEREAS, in support of this declared policy, the Philippine Legislature passed the ECCD Act where it committed to institutionalize a national system for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, that involves multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration at all levels;

WHEREAS, to ensure the implementation of the Act, it mandated the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) to also function as the National Early Childhood Care and Development Coordinating Council (NECCDCC);

WHEREAS, this Coordinating Council was tasked to formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act in consultation with appropriate government agencies and non-government organizations;

WHEREAS, in response to this provision the CWC/NECCDCC has taken the lead in the formulation and consultation nationwide for the rules and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the members of the CWC Board/NECCDCC, in meeting assembled, hereby approved the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the ECCD Act;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this IRR be published at least in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted: 4 April 2002

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Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 8980 Otherwise Known as The Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act

Pursuant to Section 14 of Republic Act No. 8980 entitled, "An Act Promulgating a Comprehensive Policy and a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), Providing Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes", the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated:

Rule 1

Policy and Application

SECTION 1. Purpose. — These Rules and Regulations shall provide the concerned national government agencies, local government units, other public institutions, non-government organizations, people's organizations and private institutions with guidelines for the implementation of a comprehensive national policy institutionalizing the National ECCD System to ensure that basic health, nutrition, psychosocial and learning needs of children from conception to age (6) are adequately and substantially met.

SECTION 2. Statement of Policies. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to institutionalize a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, through complementary strategies to:

- a. Promote the rights of children to survival, development and special protection with full recognition of their childhood and special needs;
- b. Promote the inclusion of children with special needs and advocate respect for cultural diversity;
- c. Support and educate parents in their roles as primary caregivers and as their children's first teachers;
- d. Promote community development efforts through the active involvement and support of communities to improve the quality of life of young children and families; and
- e. Utilize multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration at the national and local levels among governments, service providers, families and communities; and among the public and private sectors, non-government organizations, professional and academic institutions.

SECTION 3. Objectives. — The National ECCD System aims to:

- a. Achieve improved infant and child survival rates by ensuring that adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children and their mothers from the pre-natal period throughout the early childhood years;
- b. Enhance the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, psychological, spiritual and language development of young children;
- c. Enhance the role of parents and other caregivers as the primary caregivers and educators of their children from birth onwards;
- d. Facilitate a smooth transition from care and education provided at home to community or school-based setting and to primary school;
- e. Enhance the capabilities of service providers and their supervisors to comply with quality standards for various ECCD programs;
- f. Enhance and sustain the efforts of communities in promoting ECCD programs and ensure that special support is provided for poor and disadvantaged communities;
- g. Ensure that young children are adequately prepared for the formal learning system and that both public and private schools are responsive to the developmental needs of these children;
- h. Establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention, referral and intervention of development disorders and disabilities in early childhood; and
- i. Improve the quality standards of public and private ECCD programs through, but

not limited to, a registration and credential system for ECCD service providers.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. — As used in these Rules and Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise —

a. Act — refers to Republic Act No. 8980 otherwise known as the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act;

b. Child/children — refers to a person/s from conception to age six (below 7 years old);

c. ECCD System — refers to the comprehensive, integrative and sustainable programs, policies and implementation structures and mechanisms designed to ensure the well-being, optimum growth and development of children;

d. ECCD Programs — refer to the full range of health, nutrition, early education, psycho-social and other services that provide for the holistic needs of children as defined and implemented at national and local levels which include center-based and home-based programs;

e. Center-based programs — refer to services at the community level undertaken in a center, school or in the workplace such as the Day Care Service established under Republic Act No. 6972, public and private pre-schools, kindergarten or school-based programs, community or church-based early childhood education programs initiated by non-government organizations or people's organizations, workplace-related child care and education programs, child-minding centers, and health centers and stations;

f. Home-based programs — refer to services at the family level undertaken at home or in the neighborhood such as neighborhood-based play groups, Parent Effectiveness Service (PES), family day care programs or child-minding homes, parent education and home visiting programs;

j. ECCD Service Providers — refers to the various professionals, paraprofessionals, volunteer caregivers and organizers who are directly responsible for the care and education of young children through the various center and home-based ECCD programs. They include but are not limited to social workers, teachers, physicians, nurses, nutritionist-dietitians, psychologists, day care workers, teacher-aides, rural health midwives, community organizers, community health workers, barangay nutrition scholars, PES volunteers, child development workers and family day care providers;

k. ECCD Curriculum. — refers to the age-and developmentally-appropriate educational objectives, program of activities, organized learning experiences and recommended learning materials for children that are implemented by service providers through center and home-based programs. It shall consist of national program goals and guidelines, instructional objectives, and content outlines integrating local learning experiences and indigenous learning materials;

l. Parent Education. — refers to the various formal and alternative means of providing parents with information, skills, values formation and support system to assist them in their roles as their children's primary caregivers and educators. These