

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd launches “summer classes” for preschool children

To better prepare children on the ways of school life and develop a positive attitude in schooling, the Department of Education will open a Six-week Summer Preschool Education Program (SumPSE) in all schools nationwide from April 12 to May 21, 2010.

“This SumPSE program is part of the expanded preschool education to ensure that all Grade I entrants shall have the necessary preparations to make them ready for academic work,” Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

The program will cater to prospective Grade 1 entrants without preschool experience by June 2010. These children could be aged 5 years and 9 months on April 12, 2010 and those 6 years and above.

Studies have shown that attaining success in the first grade encourages school children to stay-on and complete elementary education. Further studies also found that the quality of preschool experiences determine the performance of children in the higher years.

“DepEd recognizes this, thus the need to continuously expand and intensify the early childhood care and development coverage among preschool children,” Lapus stressed.

The DepEd’s Bureau of Elementary Education has implemented preschool program since 1970s. However, as of 2008, only 42% of preschool children from public and private schools has been reached by the program. This, in turn, results to low readiness of Grade 1 children and high incidence of non-readers and drop outs prevailing until Grade 3.

Lapus also added that with preschool education, DepEd hopes to increase the completion rate in elementary.

SumPSE aims to increase the number of five-year old children with preschool experiences from 919,800 (42%) in 2008 to 1,659,800 (76%) by year 2012.

Based on DepEd guidelines, each class will have a minimum of twenty and a maximum of twenty five students.

Permanent preschool teachers and Grade I teachers with Early Childhood Education training will handle the summer pre school classes. They will be paid an honorarium of P4,500.00 charged against the preschool funds.

Meanwhile children who enrolled in Grade 1 but are not ready based on the School Readiness Assessment shall undergo the 8-week curriculum which runs from July to August.

END