

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd conducts training for day-care workers

The Department of Education (DepEd) has launched a comprehensive training program for day-care workers all over the country to equip them with the needed tools and strategies to handle 5-year old children.

The training covers teaching beginning reading and writing in pre-school as well as music and arts including knowledge on instructional materials. The workers will also be trained to prepare and use teaching aids and exhibits. This is in addition to sessions on indoor and outdoor activities for children.

The day-care workers were identified from the 949 low performing schools based on the results of the National Achievement Test. Volunteer workers in the day-care centers are duly accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

“Pre-school is so important to the initial education of the child thus we have to equip day-care workers who handle them,” Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

The training of day-care workers has become a critical function of the department under the DepEd expanded pre-school coverage as stipulated in Executive Order No. 685 issued in January 2008.

Under the EO, DepEd shall provide a continuing professional development program for day-care workers to ensure quality pre-school education. Local Government Units on the other hand, exercise administrative function over the day-care centers which currently stand at 45,000 all over the country.

The day-care centers are activated as a facility for pre-school education in barangays where there are no pre-school classes managed by the DepEd.

The EO guidelines specify that in areas where there are existing day-care centers and public pre-school classes, the 5-year old children will be accommodated by the public pre-schools. In case the public pre-schools cannot accommodate all the 5-year olds, day-care centers will be activated. DepEd will likewise organize pre-school classes in areas where there are no existing facilities for 5-year old children.

Educators say that pre-school provides the essential stimulation needed by 5-year old children to become ready for formal schooling in Grade 1.

PRESS RELEASE

Studies have shown that pre-school experience is a determinant factor in the performance of Grade 1 pupils in the formal school system. It was also reported that children with quality early experience achieved significantly higher than those without experience in early childhood care and development.

The expansion of the DepEd pre-school program is aimed to reach all children aged 5-years old with priority given to those least likely to enter school or most likely to drop-out.

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