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**Garapan Street Market**

On June 9, 2022, the Evergreen Learning coaches Erlaine DLG Evangelista and Russelle Mae Ignacio conducted a one-hour and thirty minutes remote orientation on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program, Quality Rating Scale and Improvement System (QRIS) and Coaching to sixteen participants from Saipan and one Tinian child care providers and directors. The QRIS in the CNMI is called Reach Higher, CNMI. QRIS is a way to “assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education settings”. This is similar to the rating restaurants receive based on how they rated during inspection or how a hotel rates their quality and services using stars (i.e., 5-star hotel, etc.) The QRIS is a rating system using a Star Level rating as well, that communicates the quality of a child care program to families. The higher the star the better-quality program the daycare center is.

The CCDF orientation is mandatory for all certified CCDF centers and must be attended by the program director to meet renewal requirements. The QRIS and coaching orientation are required to all new providers/teachers and directors to meet one of the indicators in Star Level 1. In addition, these orientations provide updates on the CCDF requirements, provider/ teachers and directors’ responsibilities when it comes to technical assistance (TA)/ coaching, documents to prepare before each program will be verified, and programs’ incentives and reimbursement when they reach a certain star level. At the end of the presentation, they are highly encouraged to reach out to Evergreen Learning coaches for any questions, clarifications regarding the orientation and to request TA to help programs meet the CCDF and QRIS requirements.

