



Reactions and Comments

Sustain the Gains: An Assessment
of Nurturing Care Outcomes in
The Next 1,000 Days

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- The study highlights an essential yet undervalued window in child development

- Ages 2–5 foundational for early learning, behavior, and socio-emotional growth
- Neglect in this period weakens earlier investments
- Should guide operationalization of the ECCD System Act

- The three major findings are accurate, well-supported, and highly relevant to current challenges

The identification of:

- large gaps in positive parenting knowledge,
- low ECCD participation despite facility availability, and
- high rates of violence at home, particularly physical punishment of 3–4 year-olds,

- *Recommendations are comprehensive but demand strong institutional coordination*

- WASH governance
- Food systems & nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Expanded primary care (PHC)
- Early learning outreach
- Anti-violence initiatives

These require clear leadership and accountability, especially for devolved functions.

- The study correctly highlights that increasing ECCD enrollment is not only a supply issue

Supply is necessary but insufficient

- Persistent belief: children are “too young” for CDCs
- Behavior change is essential

- *The WASH recommendations are strong and well-grounded in governance realities*

- Well-grounded and governance-focused
- WASH inequity is a *governance* challenge, not just infrastructure
- Need for a WASH local governance framework
- Improved LGU monitoring & accountability
- Dedicated DILG structure for WASH coordination

Anti-Violence Programming

- **A critical and well-argued component**
- CDCs as platforms for positive discipline education
- Extend efforts to homes and barangays
- Emphasis on:
 - Father engagement
 - Strengthened referral pathways
 - Integration with PHC services

Reform Supplemental Feeding Program

- Expand SFP to all children 6–59 months.
- Link feeding with nutrition education and early stimulation.

Responsive caregiving is essential but underemphasized in nurturing care.

- The ECCD Council is strengthening this area through **capacity-building programs** for CDWs and CDTs on responsive caregiving, play-based learning, developmental milestones, and early stimulation.
- The **ECCD Checklist** includes indicators on caregiver practices and early stimulation.
- RA 12199** mandates and expands these initiatives, making **parenting education a national responsibility** for all LGUs.

Improving Access to and Quality of Early Learning Opportunities

- The Council acknowledges **low ECCD attendance** despite generally high facility access.
- A major barrier is the persistent belief that young children are “**too young**” for **ECCD**, as shown in APIS 2024 data.
- Increasing ECCD demand requires **stronger social behavior change communication** and greater **LGU commitment** to promoting early learning.
- RA 12199 addresses system gaps by mandating **one CDC per barangay**, strengthening **governance structures**, and **professionalizing CDWs**.
- The Council agrees with PIDS on the need to **improve the availability and quality of learning materials** at home and in CDCs.

Conclusion

- The Next 1 000 Days offer a vital opportunity to ensure holistic development.
- Integrated policies and systems will strengthen ECCD and fully realize the First 1 000 Days Law.
- Strengthening the next 1 000 days ensures that the progress of the first 1 000 days is not lost.
- Inter-agency collaboration and strong community systems are key to long-term impact.



Thank You!

