

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 685, January 10, 2008]

EXPANDING THE PRESCHOOL COVERAGE TO INCLUDE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN DAY CARE CENTERS

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act 8980 declares the policy that the state shall institutionalize integrated system of Early Childhood Care and Development that will serve all children 0-5 years old including children with special needs and respect for cultural diversity with end in view of improving the quality of life for young children. The law likewise ensures that there is an efficient system of identification, prevention, referral, and intervention for development disorders and disabilities in early childhood;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has committed to the Global Movement on Education for All (EFA) since 1990 and has affirmed its commitment in the Philippine EFA 2010 National Action Plan, a component of which is the universal participation and total elimination of drop-out and repetition in Grades 1-3 through a quality assured program for pre-school and early childhood care and development for 3-5 years old children;

WHEREAS, pre-school experience is a determinant factor in the performance of Grade 1 students in the formal school system and was reported that children with quality early experience achieved significantly higher than those without ECD experience;

WHEREAS, pre-school experiences provide the essential stimulation needed by 5 year old children to become ready for formal schooling in Grade 1, thus should be expanded to reach all children aged 5 years old, with first priority to reaching those children least likely to enter school or most likely to drop-out or repeat in Grades 1-3;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA-MACAPAGAL - ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Coverage - The Department of Education is directed to expand its Preschool program coverage to include pre-school children enrolled in Day Care Centers.

SECTION 2. Training of Teachers - Existing Day Care Center workers shall be provided with teacher training on the curriculum and competencies for pre-school education together with the necessary instructional materials by the Department of Education.

SECTION 3. Curriculum and Instructional Supervision - The supervision of educational programs, curriculum and instruction in Day Care Centers shall be