The Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act of 2000 establishes the Philippines' national policy framework for ECCD. Shared governance is a critical component of this paradigm. This model demonstrates governance systems that facilitate the delivery of integrated ECCD services at the national, provincial, city, and municipal, as well as barangay levels. A year of implementation provides an ideal beginning point and a rich backdrop for examining the country's current condition of ECCD governance. The ECCD Act and other relevant legislation provide a context for discussing the success and problems of ECCD governance.

ECCD programs and services are not new in the Philippines. The government's several line departments have prioritized health, nutrition, early education, and psychological care, parenting education, and other social services for children aged 0 to 6 and their families. What is novel and encouraging is the establishment of a national ECCD policy framework, which includes institutional mechanisms at all levels for implementing the national ECCD policy. The ECCD law represents a significant policy development in that it establishes mechanisms for integrating and harmonizing cross-sectoral ECCD projects.

Two significant laws are mentioned along with their significance for the nation's ECCD governance. These are: (1) The Child and Youth Welfare Code of 1974, which formalized the rights and duties of children, as well as the duties and responsibilities of parents, the society, and stakeholder groups in improving the welfare of Filipino children and youth ages 0 to 21, and established the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as
the nationwide governing agency on children and youth issues related; and (2) The Local Government Code of 1974, which enshrined the rights and obligations of children, as well as the duties and responsibilities of parents, the community, and most especially in health and social welfare.

References: