

## How does this program help children be ready for school?

- Children develop the language and pre-literacy skills that are essential for school success.
- Parents learn how to support their child's language development and pre-literacy education.
- School based parent child group activities support positive home/school connections early in the child's life.
- Transition to school activities help parents and children connect to the pre-school or kindergarten the child will attend.
- Early childhood knowledge and expertise increases throughout the community.

## Program Activities

- Regular home visits from a trained early childhood educator
- Parent/child education groups in school and community settings
- Child play groups and storybook hours
- A book bag lending program for children
- Transition to school activities
- Community referrals and follow-up

## Who does Early Steps to School Success Serve?

In the US the program provides services in underserved rural areas in collaboration with local schools and community agencies. Early Steps is part of a continuum of the Save the Children US Program which focuses on language development and pre-literacy; in school literacy tutoring; and after school literacy, physical fitness and nutrition programs serving children birth to age twelve.

Early childhood staff from the community are trained in early childhood and parenting education, and will continue to serve parents and young children for years to come.



## Early Steps to School Success: A Language and Pre-Literacy Development Program

Early Steps to School Success provides early childhood education services to pregnant women and children birth to five years of age, education services to their parents, and ongoing staff training to the community early childhood educators involved with the program. The program is designed to assist children with early language development, social and emotional development, and equip parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child's growth. The result will be a strong foundation of learning for the child which will prepare him/her for success in school.

## Why is Early Child Development in the Early Years Important?

Extensive early childhood research shows the significance of early experiences and learning and the critical role they play in supporting cognitive development and the emotional health that a child needs to develop the necessary skills and motivation to learn.

Parents of very young children need skills and knowledge to foster their child's development. By providing children from birth to age five with quality, caring early learning experiences, parents can help prepare their children for a smooth transition to school.