

Program Introductory Letter

Dear family,

The preschool years are very important. We want your child to be as ready as possible for kindergarten. This is not just about knowing letters and numbers. It's also about knowing how to learn and get along with others. We will be using the *Second Step* early learning program in your child's classroom to teach these important skills.

The *Second Step* program teaches skills in the following four areas:

- 1. Skills for Learning:** Children gain skills to help them be better learners, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, and ask for help.
- 2. Empathy:** Children learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Children also learn how to show care for others.
- 3. Emotion Management:** Children learn how to calm down when they have strong feelings, such as worry or anger.
- 4. Friendship Skills and Problem Solving:** Children learn how to make and keep friends and to solve problems with others in a positive way.

Your child will be learning a lot this year—and he or she will need your help! Throughout the year, your child will be bringing home Home Links that go with each of the *Second Step* Weekly Themes. Home Links are simple, fun activities for you and your child to do together. They are a great way for you to understand what your child is learning and for your child to show you what he or she knows.

If you have any questions about the *Second Step* program, please contact me for more information. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills that will help get him or her ready for school and life.

Sincerely,

P.S. Make sure to join www.secondstep.org with the activation key **SSPE FAMI LY68** to get information about what your child is learning in the *Second Step* early learning program!

Go online today!

www.secondstep.org
Enter this activation key:
SSPE FAMI LY68



Home Links Introductory Letter

Dear family,

This week we started the *Second Step* program. Each week of the program has a different theme. The theme for this week was “Welcoming.” Children practiced greeting each other and saying their names.

Today I am sending you the Home Link for Week 1. Each Home Link has three parts:

- 1. Lesson Time:** This tells you what your child has been learning this week.
- 2. Play Time:** This has a game for you to play with your child to practice the skills of the week. I hope you will find it fun!
- 3. Story Time:** This has the photograph and the story for the week. It has a few questions for you to ask your child. Talk to your child about the photo and the story.

I am also sending you something to keep your Home Links in. Please keep each Home Link. At the end of the program, you will have a complete set of all the skills your child has learned. If your child is going to kindergarten next year, you can go back over all the Home Links during the summer to remind your child of the skills. These skills will help him or her be successful in kindergarten.

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Talking About Books Letter

Dear family,

Reading books with your child is one of the best ways to help him or her love books. And loving books is one of the most important keys to your child's success in school. In addition to reading to your child, talking to him or her about each book will help build the love of reading. It will also build his or her knowledge and vocabulary. Asking questions teaches your child to express his or her ideas.

Here are some questions that will help your child build literacy and the skills taught in the *Second Step* program. As you read, stop and ask these questions:

- What do you think is happening on this page?
- How is this character feeling?
- How can you tell?
- Have you ever felt that way?
- What you think is going to happen?

Help your child find names for the feelings shown in the pictures. Help your child connect the events in the book to his or her own life.

It is not even necessary to read the words in the book. Just talking about the pictures in your own words can still help build a love of literacy and your child's *Second Step* skills.

Please ask me for more information about building a love of reading.

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Transitioning to Kindergarten Letter

Dear family,

Next year, your child will be starting kindergarten. The *Second Step* skills your child has been learning all year will help him or her have a successful start in kindergarten.

This year your child has learned and practiced *Second Step* skills in the following four areas:

- 1. Skills for Learning:** Your child gained skills to help him or her become a better learner, including how to focus attention, listen carefully, and ask for help.
- 2. Empathy:** Your child learned to identify and understand his or her own and others' feelings. Your child also learned how to show care for others.
- 3. Emotion Management:** Your child learned how to calm down when having strong feelings, such as worry or anger.
- 4. Friendship Skills and Problem Solving:** Your child learned how to make and keep friends and to solve problems with others in a positive way.

You've also been doing Home Link activities with your child. I hope you've had fun doing them together. Now you can use the complete set of Home Links to review all the skills your child has learned. Do a few each week over the summer before your child starts kindergarten to remind your child of what he or she has learned. Help your child think about how these skills will help him or her be a better learner and get along with others in kindergarten.

Please ask me for more information about how to help your child get a successful start in kindergarten.

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