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Back cover: © UNICEF/HQ05-2121/Pirozzi

Published by the  
United Nations Children's Fund  
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New York, NY 10017, USA  
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April 2008 (Prototype)



**Getting Ready  
for School**  
A Child-to-Child Approach

# An innovative approach to early learning



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**All over the world children are helping to make their worlds better by helping the younger children in their families. They help keep them safe. They help keep them healthy. They help them learn.**

Your school has been selected to participate in 'Getting Ready for School' - a new and exciting programme to help children enter school at the right age, and to be well-prepared for successful learning. Supported by UNICEF and the Child-to-Child Trust in six countries around the world, the programme is a partnership between schools, teachers, children, parents and the community.

## Why are the years before school so important?

Children start learning from the moment of birth. By the time a child is five years old, many of the skills she or he will need to do well in school are already developed.

Five year olds can run, skip and jump; use new thinking skills to solve simple problems; use symbols, compare objects. They can sort, count and match patterns. They can use language to ask and answer questions; use their imagination to listen to and make up stories.

There is no time in life when children change and grow so rapidly. They learn by watching, listening to and interacting with the important people around them. When given the chance to explore and to wonder, children become active and confident learners.

A child who hears many words learns to speak with confidence.

A child who is encouraged to move and run, hold and catch things, will learn to use his hands and fingers easily.

A child who gets the right kind of food will grow up healthier.

A child who is included as part of the world around him will know how to live easily with other people.

## The Child-to-Child approach

In this programme older children will help preschool children through games and activities. Older children will be learning too as they help young children.

What are some of the things children will learn to do?

- Listen to and tell stories
- Sing songs and rhymes
- Talk about things they see, think and feel
- Make books and read together
- Recognize letters
- Count by using everyday objects
- Sort and group objects by colour, size and shape
- Play number games

## LEARNING TOGETHER

We know a little child who is three years old and who loves her older sister as much anyone else in the world. She follows her everywhere. Her older sister talks to her all the time. She sings to her. She tells her stories and shows her pictures she has drawn and clay models she has made. Together they play with them. Older sister takes her young sister for walks and shows her the first letter of her name in shop signs.

## How will this programme work?

Throughout the year, teachers help children in their classes find ways of helping the development of younger children at home, right from the time they are babies until they come to school. All schoolchildren will be involved in many different types of activities.

Special reading books, toys and games will be available to borrow and bring home, where older children can practise their own reading while helping the younger ones at the same time.

Children in older primary grades will work with several children during the year before they enter school. Through weekly sessions in a school-based club, children will engage in a series of fun learning activities. Older and younger children will be encouraged to repeat and extend the club activities at home.

## The special role for families

You too can be involved. Spend time reviewing the materials in this programme. You support a child when you spend time together to sing a new song, look at a book or play a fun new game the child has just learned.

Families and the community are encouraged to visit the school for special events that it organizes to promote the 'Getting Ready' programme.

