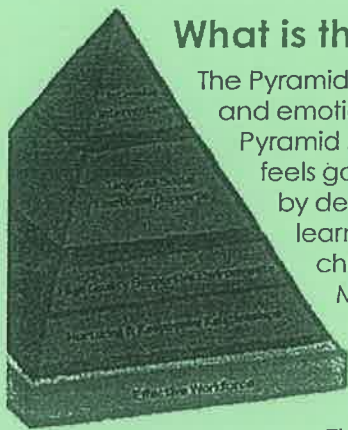




**We have something important to share with you!**

**Research<sup>1</sup> has shown that the skills your child needs to be successful in the future are social and emotional skills!**

The more socially skilled children are, the more likely they are to succeed in school. Because this is so important for your child, we are using the Pyramid Model in our program.



### What is the Pyramid Model?

The Pyramid Model is a framework for supporting the social and emotional development of our children. The goal of the Pyramid Model is to create an environment where every child feels good about coming to school. This is accomplished by designing classrooms that promote engagement in learning and by building positive relationships among children, families, and staff. In our use of the Pyramid Model, our classroom staff will work together to ensure that all children understand behavior expectations, receive instruction in social skills, and those who are struggling receive individual support.

The Pyramid Model illustrates that the foundation for helping children develop social and emotional skills is nurturing and responsive relationships and high quality environments. The middle of the Pyramid, teaching of social and emotional skills, is provided to all children with some children receiving additional teaching and support. The top of the Pyramid shows that a few children will need the foundation, the middle AND individualized intervention to address challenging behavior.

To use the Pyramid Model, our program established a leadership team that will provide ongoing support to our staff and families. Our leadership team looks forward to sharing some of the important work we are doing, including teaching program-wide expectations, partnering with families, training staff in teaching strategies, providing classroom coaching to help teachers implement, and using data for decision-making. Stay tuned for ongoing updates about the Pyramid Model in our program!

### What is gained by using the Pyramid Model?

#### FAMILIES

- Receive information on how to help promote children's social and emotional skills
- Team with teachers to help children grow and learn
- Receive support for preventing and addressing behavior problems

#### TEACHERS

- Are effective in helping children learn social and emotional skills
- Strengthen classroom management skills
- Have information and resources to support families

#### CHILDREN

- Increase their social and emotional skills
- Improve in their readiness for kindergarten

<sup>1</sup> Jones, D. E., Greenberg, M., & Crowley, M. (2015). Early social-emotional functioning and public health: The relationship between kindergarten social competence and future wellness. *American Journal of Public Health, 105*, 2283-2290.

## Program Invitation 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](http://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](http://www.secondstep.org)  
Enter this activation key:  
**SSPE FAMI LY68**

