## **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!

