

KINDERBOOST

PREPARING KIDS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

The Need

Among the nearly 15 million children living in poverty in America, half are not ready for school by age 5. They are more likely to start school with limited language skills, health problems and social and emotional problems that interfere with learning.

Research shows that the transition from early childhood care or home to kindergarten is a significant milestone in the lives of young children, their families and their teachers. And when that transition is well planned, children have fewer adjustment problems and more continuous developmental progress.

To give children living in poverty the best opportunity to succeed in school and life, they must first have the chance to acclimate to the elementary school setting.



An Innovative Solution

Save the Children has worked in the United States since 1932 with a strong focus on education. We established our signature KinderBoost program in 2015 to help ensure the transition to kindergarten is a smooth and successful one for America's kids. The two-week, 10-day school readiness program is designed to provide children and families opportunities to become familiar with their new school environment, meet school staff, make new friends and engage in early learning activities.

KinderBoost works in partnership with communities, fostering authentic connections between school and family. It also provides high-quality training for kindergarten and pre-K teachers to help implement the program.

Program highlights include:

- Daily skill-based learning centers, boosting readiness in math, literacy, fine motor skills and more
- A kindergarten readiness workshop for families
- An in-school field trip
- A family literacy event and graduation celebration
- Resources for families, including transition-related children's books, school supplies, a backpack and learning games

In 2016, Save the Children's KinderBoost program served 46 children at three locations in three states, including Kentucky, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

KinderBoost Family Feedback

- 85 percent of parents strongly agreed that they feel more comfortable sending their child to kindergarten because of the program
- 96 percent of parents strongly agreed that their child was more comfortable starting kindergarten because of the program