READY TO LEARN

ALL CHILDREN REACH THEIR EARLY DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

We believe all children have the right to learn from a quality basic education.

Ready to Learn is an evidence-driven, play-based response to the global learning crisis in which millions of children are not gaining the skills they need to succeed in school and life.

Ready to Learn supports 3-6 year old children to develop the foundational literacy and math skills they need to learn and succeed in life.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

The first 6 years of a child's life is a time of rapid change as the brain develops. Yet children are not meeting their developmental potential in these early years, leaving an immediate and long lasting impact on their lives. The most deprived are already behind their peers before they even start school.

Ready to Learn provides parents, carers, teachers and learning centres with training and guidance on how to provide children in their first years with the foundational skills they need to learn through play.

As part of the Ready to Learn approach, teachers and carers are trained to use common objects for counting and sorting and to use a resource bank of play-oriented activity cards included in the approach toolkit.

The approach has been taken to scale through strong evidence and partnerships. It is a replicable and scalable solution to building the essential foundations for early learning that can bring lifelong benefits to children.

> Too many children do not have the foundational skills they need to succeed in school and life.

Ready to Learn focuses on five emergent literacy skills and five emergent numeracy skills:

Literacy: Talking & listening, understanding print, knowing what books are, knowing about the alphabet, and understanding sounds and words.

Numeracy: Numbers & counting, patterns, sorting & classification, comparison & measurement, and geometry).

EMERGENT LITERACY SKILLS
1. Talking and listening
2. Understanding print
3. Knowing what books are
4. Knowing about the alphabet
5. Understanding sounds and words

EMERGENT MATH SKILLS
1. Numbers and counting
2. Patterns
3. Sorting and classification
4. Comparison and measurement
5. Geometry

Ready to Learn includes three core components: Learning in the Centre, Learning in the Home, and the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA), an easy to use child assessment.

Save the Children

SCALE & IMPACT
WE ARE IMPLEMENTING READY TO LEARN IN 20 COUNTRIES WITH SUPPORT FROM 9 MEMBERS

CORE COMPONENTS

Ready to Learn has three core components, each with its own set of toolkits and guidance:

- **ELM in the Centre** enhances preschool practices by supporting teachers to integrate over 100 play-based activities into their daily schedules.

- **ELM at Home** extends opportunities to children who have no access to a preschool. This features 25 simple, hands-on games that caregivers can do at home with their children.

- **The International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA)** is an easy to use assessment that measures children's progression in a standardised manner, allowing for comparison across multiple contexts.
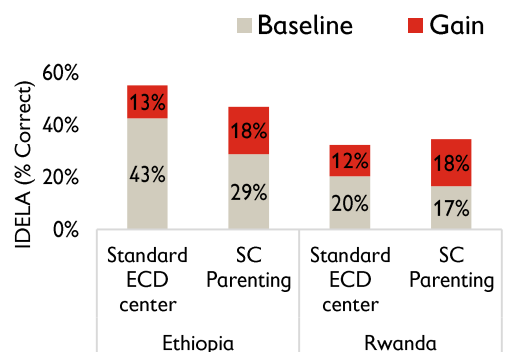
IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S LEARNING

Save the Children has studied the efficacy of Ready to Learn in four countries (Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malawi and Rwanda), and research is underway in another five (Bhutan, Bolivia, Mali, Nepal and Vietnam). Given the flexibility of its design, Ready to Lean can be implemented through different platforms (home and centre) and consistently produces positive results. Research has also demonstrated that ELM improves retention in the early grades of primary school: in Bangladesh, children who had received Ready to Learn were three times more likely to be in the right grade for their age in Grade 2 compared to their peers that did not benefit from ECCD.

FOCUS ON THE MOST DEPRIVED

While both the Ethiopian and Rwandan governments are working to improve access to preschool, the most deprived children continue to fall further and further behind their more advantaged peers. In both countries, Save the Children has implemented a ELM at Home programme, focused on teaching and empowering parents to engage in early literacy and math activities for children who are out of school.

ELM at home enables us to reach the most deprived (who are often out of preschool) and has been shown to improve development outcomes as effectively as preschool.

With high quality stimulation at home, children make comparable gains to those enrolled in ECCD centres.

REACHING THE MOST DEPRIVED

About 20% of children in low income and 50% in lower middle income countries have access to preschool education, but these averages mask vast underlying inequities. Data from Save the Children's global ECCD work shows that the poorest and most marginalised children are least likely to access ECCD programmes. For example, a Save the Children study of over 2,500 children and families in Afghanistan found that children were more likely to be enrolled in ECCD centres if they were living in wealthier homes or had literate mothers. Ready to Learn has been proven to be effective in reducing this type of disparity, as the ELM at Home component targets disadvantaged children without access to formal or centre based ECCD services. ELM at Home also offers an effective approach in emergency and post-disaster settings, and for remote and nomadic communities.

SUPPORTING POLICY CHANGE

Ready to Learn is easily scalable and adaptable to the curricula of national preschools or early learning systems. As countries invest more in early childhood education, ELM offers a way to reach children without access to preschools, as well as improve learning both before and during early primary education. For example, in Bhutan, ELM has been integrated into the formal preschool system at national scale; in Ethiopia and Rwanda, the IDELA results from ELM programmes have influenced the development of the government's national pre-primary curricula.

KEY CONTACTS

Amy Jo Dowd, Senior Director, Education and Learning Research - adowd@savechildren.org

David Skinner, Director, Education Global Theme, david.skinner@savethechildren.org

LEARN MORE ABOUT READY TO LEARN