



small steps nurturing center

Frequently Asked Questions



What is Small Steps Nurturing Center?

Small Steps Nurturing Center is a non-profit organization that operates two preschools for economically at-risk students, ages 2-6, living in the First, Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wards of Houston, Texas.

The mission of Small Steps is to provide an exemplary early childhood program to instill and foster the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth of economically at-risk children and their families.



What is distinctive about Small Steps?

- Small Steps' comprehensive educational program incorporates acclaimed language arts, literacy, and mathematics curricula as well as a daily fine arts program that includes music, art, drama, and creative movement.
- Using its SET for Life® social and emotional curriculum, the school's therapists seek to meet the developmental needs of students.
- Small Steps provides two nutritionally balanced meals and a snack each day.
- The school transports about two-thirds of its students to and from school every day.
- Small Steps is one of only 6% of Houston-area early childhood education programs that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).



Who are Small Steps' students?

Small Steps offers enrollment to children from economically disadvantaged households who live in the seven zip codes surrounding the school. Currently, Small Steps serves 118 children in eight classes, ranging from two years old to kindergarten. The parents of these students agree to volunteer at the school a minimum of ten hours per year.



Why offer this type of program?

Research shows that quality early childhood education makes a dramatic long-term difference in the lives of children, impacting them for years and even into adulthood. A quality preschool program definitively enhances educational attainment levels, income, and family stability while reducing crime rates. These research studies show that the economic return to society exceeds \$8 per \$1 invested.

Can Small Steps serve more children?

Since opening its doors, Small Steps has been at full enrollment with many requests for application information. Small Steps is continually seeking ways to grow and replicate the work that we do.



If Small Steps is free, how does it pay for its program?

Small Steps is completely funded through the generosity of private donors.



Where do students go after finishing kindergarten at Small Steps?

Most of our students enter HISD elementary schools—some even skipping a grade based on their performance levels. Many of our students have been accepted into HISD magnet and gifted and talented programs. Small Steps works very closely with parents to inform them of the range of options available in elementary school and to assist them in gaining the most appropriate placement.



Does Small Steps track its students after graduation?

Small Steps collects data on the success of its students after graduation from Small Steps. As the volume of this data grows, Small Steps intends to use this tracking data for research purposes.

How can I help?

We have several ways for you to become involved here at Small Steps. You can volunteer individually or as a group, make a donation, sponsor a child's education, or provide needed items from our wish list. Please contact us or visit our website for more information. We are always grateful for your help!



Who can I contact for more information?

We would love to hear from you. Feel free to visit our website or contact us directly:

Evan Harrel, Executive Director: 713-236-0330
Ashley Weathers, Advancement Director: 713-236-0330
Retta Bravo, Volunteer Coordinator: 713-862-1020



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