

All children benefit from  
**positive  
adjustment  
experiences**

Primary Project is a national evidence-based program that helps children in pre-k through third grade adjust to school, gain confidence, social skills, and focus on learning. A highly trained and specially selected adult, called a child associate, provides weekly sessions based on encouragement, decision making, and responsibility – all through the use of creative and expressive play.

*“I became increasingly enticed by the merits of the program and was sold after reviewing district data from previous years depicting its effectiveness.”*

—STATE LEVEL CONSULTANT

## RECOGNITION OF EFFECTIVENESS

*Evidence Based Program*  
National Registry of Evidence Based Programs and Practices: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

*Sharing Success Program*  
New York State Education Department

*Lela Rowland Award for Outstanding Prevention Program*  
National Mental Health Association

*Exemplary Prevention Program*  
U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health

## children’s institute

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Children’s Institute is affiliated with the University of Rochester



Helping children reach  
their full potential



# School success from the beginning



*“Most students yearn for that one-to-one time with a caring role model in the playroom. Primary Project is a transformational experience for our children.”*

–PRINCIPAL



## What happens in Primary Project...

A highly trained adult, called a child associate, meets with each child individually for 30 minutes, once a week over 12-15 weeks. A trusting relationship builds while helping the child gain skills in decision making, tolerating frustration, taking appropriate risks, making discoveries, and solving problems creatively. These skills are practiced and learned through the natural way young children learn, express, and communicate – through play.

Child associates receive ongoing training and supervision by experienced school professionals. Parents are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher, school mental health professional, or principal to learn more about this successful program.

## How children are selected...

Just as teachers regularly assess their students academic skills, they also observe and measure how well their students are adjusting to school socially and emotionally. If a teacher, parent or other school personnel think a child might benefit from participation, a permission form is sent home. At anytime, we encourage parents to call for more information about the program and how their child might benefit.

*“If we become proactive now, we won’t have to be reactive later.”*

–CHILD ASSOCIATE

## Benefits to your child...

The first years of school are critical. Between 15-30% of young children find it difficult to adjust to the demands of school. Primary Project can help overcome adjustment difficulties before they become entrenched. Early intervention helps students succeed in the school setting. This success makes children more willing to try new experiences and to navigate the tasks involved in learning. Early school success leads to success throughout a lifetime.

*“I think all children should have a positive school experience like Primary Project.”*

–PARENT



## OVER 60 YEARS OF SUCCESS

It is well documented that helping children adjust to school in the early grades helps support academic success and may prevent future problems. Primary Project is:

- Cost effective
- Found in over 1000 schools nationally and internationally
- Adopted by states, districts, behavioral health care agencies, and individual schools
- Research-based