

goal 1

By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn.



One benchmark towards achieving this vision is that all DoDEA children of preschool age (3-4 year-olds) will have access to preschool programs. Another benchmark states that preschool students who have completed DoDEA preschool programs will be proficient in the five readiness skills.

School READINESS

The DoDEA vision for early childhood education is that all of our learning environments, teacher training programs, equipment, and facilities will be available and suited to receive all of our preschool children.

- The proportion of DoDDS elementary schools having a preschool program (3 and 4 year olds) expanded from 32% in SY 1996-97 to 53% in SY 1997-98. As a result the number of DoDDS children attending preschool increased by 50% from 720 children SY 1996-97 to 1,112 children SY 1997-98. Increases were the result of newly established preschool programs.
- Access to DDESS preschool programs was expanded slightly from the 56% growth experi-

- ended last year from 3087 children SY 1996-97
- to 3,133 children SY 1997-98. Except Guam, which opened three schools and did not have the facility for preschool, all schools in DDESS now have preschool programs.

- Students who completed DoDDS preschool programs demonstrated proficiency in the five readiness skills, outlined in the DoDEA early childhood curriculum, at the following rates, as determined by a performance based assessment:

- ★ Gross and Fine Motor Development: 84%
- ★ Approach to Learning: 81%
- ★ Personal Social Development: 80%
- ★ Language and Literacy: 79%
- ★ Mathematical Thinking: 74%

