“In 6 months, the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program achieved a 100% enrollment of out of school children, an 18.5% increase in their self-esteem and significant improvements in both language and math, placing these children 13.9 and 17.3 points, respectively, above the national mean.”

* Results of the application of UNESCO Tests. 2004/2005 Pilot project. Soacha, Colombia

“The environment of the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles allows me to dialogue more with my peers and solve conflicts without using force. I also understand and learn more and feel more safe and secure.”

— Jenny, student, Colombia

**Results**
- Successfully impacted national policy.
- Improved self-esteem and learning outcomes of children.
- Improved civic and democratic behaviors, as well as active, peaceful interactions among children.
- Improved parent and community interest and participation in student’s lives and learning experience.

**Advantages**
- Provides marginalized children and youth a chance for inclusion.
- Accelerates enrollment and retention of out of school children.
- Provides quality education through a relevant, meaningful curriculum.
- Provides a protective space for vulnerable children and youth “at risk”.

**Our services**
- Training, follow up and technical assistance for the setup and running of the program.
- Relevant content and methodology.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

www.escuelanueva.org
Fundación Escuela Nueva Volvamos a la Gente
Calle 39 No. 21-57. Bogotá – Colombia
info@escuelanueva.org

"In 6 months, the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program achieved a 100% enrollment of out of school children, an 18.5% increase in their self-esteem and significant improvements in both language and math, placing these children 13.9 and 17.3 points, respectively, above the national mean.”

* Results of the application of UNESCO Tests. 2004/2005 Pilot project. Soacha, Colombia

**Escuela Nueva Learning Circles™**
The Problem

Millions of children worldwide suffer from extreme poverty, inadequate social services, violence and numerous barriers to education. To aggravate the problem, displacements, child labor, political repression, ethnic persecution, and natural disasters yield even greater numbers of out of school children worldwide.

Several approaches have been developed to address this problem, such as mobile kits, scholarship programs and infrastructure initiatives. However, educational methodologies have not been rethought to face this social challenge, and enroll and retain the increasing number of out of school children. Conventional schools fail to adapt to their needs and conditions. They tend to expel children instead of attracting them and maintaining them in schools.

Particularly vulnerable, out of school children need an educational approach that is flexible and adapts to their mobility, develops basic life and social skills and gives them special socio affective support, due to their circumstances.

Inadequate Approaches

Frontal, teacher-centered methods that focus on whole class instruction and the transmission of knowledge are predominant; also, schools tend to homogenize and assume all students learn at the same pace. There is limited space for personalized attention and for dialogue and social interaction among students; more emphasis is given to rote-memory methods and academic results, whereas there is weak development of social skills, such as learning to dialogue, reach agreements, accept diverse opinions and collaborate.

Escuela Nueva Learning Circles™, a Solution

In 2001, Fundación Escuela Nueva developed the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program to restore the right to quality education for out of school, hard-to-reach children in vulnerable social situations like extreme poverty, conflict, emergencies or forced displacement. The program has successfully accelerated their integration and enrollment into the educational system, understood and supported their particular psychosocial needs and improved their learning outcomes.

The Escuela Nueva Learning Circles provide a safe, caring environment and are flexible in pedagogical strategies and enrollment requirements, all of which are attuned to their reality, transitional status, age and cultural heterogeneity.

The Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program is an innovation of the Escuela Nueva pedagogical model, worldwide renowned for its proven effectiveness improving the quality of education. It was adapted to meet the distinctive needs of vulnerable, out of school children and builds on the principles of child-centered, active, personalized, participatory and cooperative learning.

What they promote

- Different learning rhythms or paces.
- Flexible promotion.
- Child-centered, active, participatory and cooperative learning.
- Dialogue, interaction and the development of social skills.
- Stable, caring and joyful learning environments that help develop emotional, social and cognitive skills.
- Closer, stronger relationships between the school and the community.
The Problem

Millions of children worldwide suffer from extreme poverty, inadequate social services, violence and numerous barriers to education. To aggravate the problem, displacements, child labor, political repression, ethnic persecution, and natural disasters yield even greater numbers of out of school children worldwide.

Several approaches have been developed to address this problem, such as mobile kits, scholarship programs and infrastructure initiatives. However, educational methodologies have not been rethought to face this social challenge, and enroll and retain the increasing number of out of school children. Conventional schools fail to adapt to their needs and conditions. They tend to expel children instead of attracting them and maintaining them in schools.

Particularly vulnerable, out of school children need an educational approach that is flexible and adapts to their mobility, develops basic life and social skills and gives them special socio affective support, due to their circumstances.

Inadequate Approaches

Frontal, teacher-centered methods that focus on whole class instruction and the transmission of knowledge are predominant; also, schools tend to homogenize and assume all students learn at the same pace.

There is limited space for personalized attention and for dialogue and social interaction among students; more emphasis is given to rote-memory methods and academic results, whereas there is weak development of social skills, such as learning to dialogue, reach agreements, accept diverse opinions and collaborate.

Escuela Nueva Learning Circles™, a Solution

In 2001, Fundación Escuela Nueva developed the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program to restore the right to quality education for out of school, hard-to-reach children in vulnerable social situations like extreme poverty, conflict, emergencies or forced displacement. The program has successfully accelerated their integration and enrollment into the educational system, understood and supported their particular psychosocial needs and improved their learning outcomes.

The Escuela Nueva Learning Circles provide a safe, caring environment and are flexible in pedagogical strategies and enrollment requirements, all of which are attuned to their reality, transitional status, age and cultural heterogeneity.

The Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program is an innovation of the Escuela Nueva pedagogical model, worldwide renowned for its proven effectiveness improving the quality of education. It was adapted to meet the distinctive needs of vulnerable, out of school children and builds on the principles of child-centered, active, personalized, participatory and cooperative learning.

They are learning spaces where groups of around 15 students work together with the aid of a tutor from the community, who facilitates learning and provides personalized attention until they are ready to transition into the formal, official school. The personalized and extra socio affective support restores and strengthens children’s self-esteem, develops social and life skills as well as a joyful learning experience. They strengthen the relationship between the school and the community and promote a flexible promotion mechanism adapted to the lifestyle of the child through self-paced, self-directed learning materials that follow the Escuela Nueva methodology.

Escuela Nueva Learning Circles operate off-site from mainstream formal schools, but are officially linked to them through shared academic calendars, grading systems and extracurricular activities. Children are officially enrolled in school, but study in learning circles that can be set up in any communal space. The program does not create a parallel educational system; it is integrated into it and recognized by the Ministry of Education as an effective strategy to accelerate action on getting out of school children into school.

What they promote

- Different learning rhythms or paces.
- Flexible promotion.
- Child-centered, active, participatory and cooperative learning.
- Dialogue, interaction and the development of social skills.
- Stable, caring and joyful learning environments that help develop emotional, social and cognitive skills.
- Closer, stronger relationships between the school and the community.
The Problem

Millions of children worldwide suffer from extreme poverty, inadequate social services, violence and numerous barriers to education. To aggravate the problem, displacements, child labor, political repression, ethnic persecution, and natural disasters yield even greater numbers of out of school children worldwide.

Several approaches have been developed to address this problem, such as mobile kits, scholarship programs and infrastructure initiatives. However, educational methodologies have not been rethought to face this social challenge, and enroll and retain the increasing number of out of school children. Conventional schools fail to adapt to their needs and conditions. They tend to expel children instead of attracting them and maintaining them in schools.

Particularly vulnerable, out of school children need an educational approach that is flexible and adapts to their mobility, develops basic life and social skills and gives them special socio affective support, due to their circumstances.

Inadequate Approaches

Frontal, teacher-centered methods that focus on whole class instruction and the transmission of knowledge are predominant; also, schools tend to homogenize and assume all students learn at the same pace. There is limited space for personalized attention and for dialogue and social interaction among students; more emphasis is given to rote-memory methods and academic results, whereas there is weak development of social skills, such as learning to dialogue, reach agreements, accept diverse opinions and collaborate.

Escuela Nueva Learning Circles™, a Solution

In 2001, Fundación Escuela Nueva developed the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program to restore the right to quality education for out of school, hard-to-reach children in vulnerable social situations like extreme poverty, conflict, emergencies or forced displacement. The program has successfully accelerated their integration and enrollment into the educational system, understood and supported their particular psychosocial needs and improved their learning outcomes.

The Escuela Nueva Learning Circles provide a safe, caring environment and are flexible in pedagogical strategies and enrollment requirements, all of which are attuned to their reality, transitional status, age and cultural heterogeneity.

The Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program is an innovation of the Escuela Nueva pedagogical model, worldwide renowned for its proven effectiveness improving the quality of education. It was adapted to meet the distinctive needs of vulnerable, out of school children and builds on the principles of child-centered, active, personalized, participatory and cooperative learning.

They are learning spaces where groups of around 15 students work together with the aid of a tutor from the community, who facilitates learning and provides personalized attention until they are ready to transition into the formal, official school. The personalized and extra socio affective support restores and strengthens children’s self-esteem, develops social and life skills as well as a joyful learning experience. They strengthen the relationship between the school and the community and promote a flexible promotion mechanism adapted to the lifestyle of the child through self-paced, self-directed learning materials that follow the Escuela Nueva methodology.

Escuela Nueva Learning Circles™ operate off-site from mainstream formal schools, but are officially linked to them through shared academic calendars, grading systems and extracurricular activities. Children are officially enrolled in school, but study in learning circles that can be set up in any communal space. The program does not create a parallel educational system; it is integrated into it and recognized by the Ministry of Education as an effective strategy to accelerate action on getting out of school children into school.

What they promote
- Different learning rhythms or paces.
- Flexible promotion.
- Child-centered, active, participatory and cooperative learning.
- Dialogue, interaction and the development of social skills.
- Stable, caring and joyful learning environments that help develop emotional, social and cognitive skills.
- Closer, stronger relationships between the school and the community.
“In 6 months, the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles program achieved a 100% enrollment of out of school children, an 18.5% increase in their self-esteem and significant improvements in both language and math, placing these children 13.9 and 17.3 points, respectively, above the national mean.”

* Results of the application of UNESCO Tests. 2004/2005 Pilot project. Soacha, Colombia
**Results**

- Successfully impacted national policy.
- Improved self-esteem and learning outcomes of children.
- Improved civic and democratic behaviors, as well as active, peaceful interactions among children.
- Improved parent and community interest and participation in student’s lives and learning experience.

* Results of the application of UNESCO Tests. 2004/2005 Pilot project. Soacha, Colombia

**Advantages**

- Provides marginalized children and youth a chance for inclusion.
- Accelerates enrollment and retention of out of school children.
- Provides quality education through a relevant, meaningful curriculum.
- Provides a protective space for vulnerable children and youth “at risk”.

---

**Our services**

- Training, follow up and technical assistance for the setup and running of the program.
- Relevant content and methodology.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

---

“The environment of the Escuela Nueva Learning Circles allows me to dialogue more with my peers and solve conflicts without using force. I also understand and learn more and feel more safe and secure.”

—Jenny, student, Colombia

---

“**Escuela Nueva Learning Circles**

program achieved a 100% enrollment of out of school children, an 18.5% increase in their self-esteem and significant improvements in both language and math, placing these children 13.9 and 17.3 points, respectively, above the national mean.”

* Results of the application of UNESCO Tests. 2004/2005 Pilot project. Soacha, Colombia