OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
By The Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Lexington County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>289,990</td>
<td>16,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In Poverty</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KIDS COUNT data provided by

- Since inception, Lexington County First Steps has leveraged $7,005,829 from sources outside of state government. That’s $.64 for every state dollar received.
- Implemented the largest Countdown to Kindergarten program in the state, with 213 children served from 21 schools with 43 teachers. According to Lexington County 5K teachers, 82% felt CTK children outperformed their fellow students and 87.5% had greater parent involvement.
- Served 128 children in Parents as Teachers, making gains in parenting skills and interactive literacy skills. Averaged nearly 23 home visits per family in 2015-16.
- Supported 134 early childhood staff with 14 sessions of quality training.

Lexington County First Steps Program
James H. Riddle, Jr.
Executive Director

Since 2001, Lexington County First Steps has been defined as filling gaps, enhancing and enlarging services and serving the most at-risk children through the collective wisdom of collaborations and partnerships across Lexington County. Parents as Teachers (PAT), is an evidenced-based home visitation model used by Lexington County since inception of First Steps. It is the flagship of our county services and is the largest PAT program in South Carolina partnering with each of the five school districts’ Parent Centers. (CTK), an in-home summer visitation program serves as transition for children entering 5K who often have had little, if any, prior preschool experience. Lexington County has the largest CTK program in South Carolina. Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants were awarded to two Centers in Lexington County with monitoring provided by a credentialed Technical Assistant and grants for equipment and supplies. Child Care Provider Training continues to be a hallmark service coordinating with Midlands TEC (MTC), Childcare Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and the Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD). With minimal hourly rates, this service continues to be financially self-supporting.

County Programs
Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training

State Programs
BabyNet
First Steps 4K
Early Head Start
Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.

**Healthy Start**

We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.

**Quality Childcare**

Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child’s development and success in school.

**Family Strengthening**

Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps’ intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at “low” levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.

**Early Education**

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.

**Early Intervention**

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.

**School Transition**

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Lexington County First Steps focuses its investments in Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, and Child Care Training.

Thank you to our donors:

United Way!  All 5 Lexington County School Districts in-kind!  100% of Board Members & Staff!
Parents as Teachers

Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.

Program Description
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. Personal Visits at least twice monthly
2. Monthly Group Connections with other PAT families
3. Screenings and Assessments to identify developmental concerns
4. Connections to Outside Resources that families may need to succeed

Lexington County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

- 89% ... live in poverty
- 44% ... didn’t graduate from high school
- 12% ... were teen parents

“I would recommend this program to any family that is looking to become a part of a program that can offer different experiences, education, assistance and kindness in every regard.”
Tamara Holmes

Parents as Teachers by the Numbers 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>2372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving Families</td>
<td>2397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):</td>
<td>3.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- Averaged 22.59 home visits per family
- Identified and addressed 50 potential developmental delays
- Improved parenting practices with a .39 gain with the KIPS Assessment.
- Improved literacy skills by delivering 1,979 books to children. Additionally, pre ACIRI prior scores for children were 1.79 and post scores were 2.04 with a .25 increase
- Made 94 connections for families to services such as Adult Education, Early Education Program, English Language Classes, Family Events and Activities, Library Resources, and Health and Medical

Thank you to our partners!

Lexington School District One Parenting Center
Lexington School District Two Star Program
Lexington School District Three Family Learning Center
Lexington School District Four Early Childhood Center
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Ready By Five

Lexington County First Steps
101 West Columbia Avenue
Batesburg, SC 29006
803 532-6861
www.lexingtoncountyfirststeps.org
In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps’ Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Providers Served</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of TA Visits Provided</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2015-16!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider</th>
<th>Pre/Post Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kids’ Stuff, 2 yr-old room</td>
<td>From 2.55 to 3.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- Provided 163.25 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- Provided $5,948 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

- Kids’ Stuff Learning Center
- Big Blue Marble Academy

Lexington County First Steps
101 West Columbia Avenue
Batesburg, SC 29006
803 532-6861
www.lexingtoncountyfirststeps.org
Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description
High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training by the Numbers, 2015-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child Care Training Sponsored by Lexington County First Steps, 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sessions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing Staff and Strengthening Your Team</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Positive Guidance to Enhance Teamwork</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the Growth &amp; Development Process</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Music &amp; Movement with Children</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music &amp; Movement in the High/Scope World</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloodborne Pathogens</td>
<td>Two Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why Poverty Matters</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for the Whole Body</td>
<td>Session One &amp; Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Healthy Brain</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Child Guidance</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conscious Discipline for Program Administrators</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Experiences</td>
<td>Session One &amp; Two</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Play is our brain’s favorite way of learning.”
– Dianne Ackerman

This year, our Training program provided:

✓ 134 early childhood staff with high quality training
✓ 31 hours of certified training and 4 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
✓ 2 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

Midlands Technical College (MTC)
Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD)
Richland County First Steps
Countdown to Kindergarten

Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description
Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
- to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

**Home Visitation.** Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

**Learning Celebration.** The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

**Public Awareness.** Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2015*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>1248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CTK program data is for June-August 2015, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 22.2%
- According to kindergarten teachers, 88% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in the domains of Approaches to Learning and Inquiry during the 2015-16 school year.
- According to kindergarten teachers, 96% of CTK parents created a positive relationship between family and the child’s school.

Thank you to our partners!

Lexington County School District One
Lexington County School District Two
Lexington County School District Three
Lexington County School District Four
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties
United Way of the Midlands (UWM)
Kaplan Early Learning Center

Lexington County First Steps
101 West Columbia Avenue
Batesburg, SC 29006
803 532-6861
www.lexingtoncountyfirststeps.org
Total 2015-16 Expenditures: $961,694

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 60%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
<th>% of 2015-16 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$383,368</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$260,634</td>
<td>$644,002</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
<td>$11,866</td>
<td>$64,008</td>
<td>$9,651</td>
<td>$85,525</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
<td>$34,481</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$269</td>
<td>$34,750</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Training</td>
<td>$15,263</td>
<td>$24,630</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$39,893</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Family Literacy</td>
<td>$9,956</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$9,956</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Training</td>
<td>$5,743</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,743</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$77,589</td>
<td>$230</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$77,819</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$64,005</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$64,005</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$602,271</td>
<td>$88,868</td>
<td>$270,555</td>
<td>$961,694</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Since inception, Lexington County First Steps has leveraged $7,005,829 from sources outside of state government. That’s 64 cents for every state dollar.
Success Story: Lexington District One Parenting Program

Walaa and her son, Kiroles exemplify all of the aspects of SUCCESS in our Parenting program! Walaa and her family moved into our district from Lexington Two approximately three years ago. Lexington Two had established a good foundation for the family through Parents as Teachers, and when the family moved to Lexington One, our Parent Educator began First Steps/PAT home visitation. The family had located to the United States from Egypt, and their primary language was Arabic. Walaa know very little English, but she carried around a spiral notebook and added words that she picked up through conversation. The older child was referred for Countdown to Kindergarten, and Walaa was learning words with the help of her older son’s expanding vocabulary. Walaa and Kiroles loved activities shared at the visits, but it was evident that the family needed to experience more, as they were socially isolated and confined to the home. The father owns a restaurant and works longs hours including time on weekends. We began to bring in additional resources, always lots of literacy-based activities and books. In setting the family goals, literacy and reading with her children was always a goal. In addition to print-based materials, we have taken an iPad to the home and loaded it with a few simple games to use as a “reward” at the end of our sessions. Walaa expressed an interest in getting to the library for group events, but transportation was always an issue. She decided she was going to set her goal to get her SC Driver’s license. She tried several times, but there was NO help at the DMV for those speaking Arabic. With persistence, this became a reality and Walaa now drives her husband to work and attends English classes through Adult Education at our center. Kiroles is enrolled her in our Childcare and Walaa is thrilled that his vocabulary is growing as he plays with his friends, just like her acquisition of the English language. She and her boys attended our 3rd annual Roll-and-Read this past Saturday. We coordinated this with a Kid’s Day event in our small town and Walaa was so gracious! She had never attended anything like it and was so happy to participate with her children and her new friends. To say that she has accomplished a goal or purpose is an understatement.

Because this is just the beginning.

We are thrilled to have played a small part in the continued success of this family.

Support Lexington County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
Success Story: Lexington District Four 2016

Our success story is about a family from Mexico who has settled in Gaston. The Mother began ESOL classes in the Spring of 2012. She utilized the Lexington 4 Adult Education Child Care for her two young daughters. In the Fall of 2014 the older daughter started school at The Early Childhood Center in Lexington 4. Mom continued to attend ESOL classes and she began receiving First Steps, PAT home visits 2-3 times a month for her younger daughter.

In September of 2015 Lexington 4 began offering Jump Start to Raising A Reader classes for upcoming students and their parents. This same Mom began attending 2 days a week with her daughter for the 8 week Fall session. She requested and is now attending the 8 week Spring session.

The child’s mastery of many skills is very apparent! The Mom stated (in English) that her Parent Educator had also been working with them at home and her daughter enjoys the activities.

On Thursday April 28 The Early Childhood Center held an Open House for parents to see their children at work in the classroom. The teacher of this Mom’s older child shared that the family arrived with both children. The younger daughter entered the classroom with confidence, rolled out a rug and began working alongside her big sister!

It is a success when everyone works together for the same goal and we are excited to continue watching this family’s successes for years to come!

Countdown to Kindergarten Story

Francine Wright
Teacher, Lexington School District Three

Bryan was a grateful and eager student during CTK Summer Program. He was always prepared and ready to learn. His materials were always kept in great order and in excellent condition.

Bryan started as a no-English speaker but never ever allowed that to hinder his participation. He always kept his eyes and ears on me. He was and is an eager learner. Self Pride! Panther Pride! (School mascot)

His mother and little brother truly supported him and assisted in most of the activities, although mom was suffering from a debilitating health condition. True commitment.

He’s a great example for those new to the CTK program, but also for those new to the country USA. He was truly a delight to work with and his transition has been very positive.
The Board of Directors meets five times during the year, traditionally between September and May, at one of the ten public libraries or at the Lexington County Health Department. With the exception of one meeting with an excused absence just prior to the meeting, the Board has always had a quorum at every Board meeting since the inception of Lexington County First Steps in 2001. This is an extraordinary testimony of the ownership that Board members feel and a statement of support of the programming. Thank you Board Members for your dedication and determination as a team to insure the success of Lexington County First Steps!

### Board of Directors 2015 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Felkel, Chair</td>
<td>Parenting and Family Services Director/Social Services Coordinator</td>
<td>School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ada Jane Setzler, Secretary</td>
<td>Former Public Education Teacher, Community Volunteer</td>
<td>Legislative Delegation Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Grimes</td>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Educator</td>
<td>Richland County School District One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marla Hamilton</td>
<td>Lead Parent Educator Lexington School District One</td>
<td>Family Education, Training &amp; Support Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki West</td>
<td>South Carolina Department of Education, Retired</td>
<td>Family Education, Training &amp; Support Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Albert</td>
<td>Emmanuel Wee Care Swansea</td>
<td>Childcare/Early Education Development/Education Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Johnson</td>
<td>Occupational Therapist, Lexington One, Retired</td>
<td>Healthcare Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Weissman</td>
<td>Director of Transportation, School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties</td>
<td>Transportation Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda O’Neill</td>
<td>Lexington County DHEC Community Outreach</td>
<td>Department of Health and Environmental Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Pytik</td>
<td>Coordinator of Youth Services</td>
<td>Lexington County Public Library System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devona Price</td>
<td>Principal Lake Murray Elementary School</td>
<td>Lexington County School District One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Wiley</td>
<td>Director of Parenting and Family Services /Early Childhood Coordinator</td>
<td>Lexington County School District Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Bouknight</td>
<td>Director of Accountability and Director of Adult Education</td>
<td>Lexington County School District Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce Carter</td>
<td>Administrator Lexington School District One, Retired</td>
<td>Lexington Delegation Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Love</td>
<td>Department of Social Services, South Carolina First Steps, Retired</td>
<td>Lexington Delegation Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Busbee, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Coordinator of Parenting Services</td>
<td>Lexington School District Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Jackson</td>
<td>Art in Action, Owner</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Parrish</td>
<td>Retired School Administrator Lexington District One</td>
<td>Pre K/Primary Educator, Retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Taylor</td>
<td>Batesburg Leesville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Goals of First Steps

(1) Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;  
(2) Increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;  
(3) Promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;  
(4) Provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and  
(5) Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30

Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

http://scfirststeps.org/4k

BabyNet in Lexington County:
LOCAL SPOE PHONE # - 803-734-0111
http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/