Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Early Identification and Referral

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>Kershaw County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>293,134</td>
<td>3,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In Poverty</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders “Does Not Meet” Standard in Reading</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KIDS COUNT data provided by

- Since inception Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged $1,520,717 from sources outside state government.
- 437 hours of support and guidance were provided to 31 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- Childcare professionals received 127.50 hours of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through 11 Group Connections Parent Workshops.
- Total Children Served in FY17: 516

Kershaw County First Steps
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Board Chair
Stephen Wilson
www.kershawfirststeps.org

Kershaw County First Steps
Kimberley Jordan
Executive Director

As Kershaw County First Steps (KCFS) grows and matures, this report shares information about the results from the cadre of services and system improvements being supported with state and private funding.

Kershaw County First Steps is founded on the premise that government and communities can work together so that ‘every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful’.

County Programs
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Quality Counts
Early Identification and Referral
Countdown to Kindergarten

State Programs
First Steps 4k

Healthy Start
Family Strengthening
Early Intervention
Quality Child Care
Early Education
School Transition
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 Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.

**Early Intervention**
Children’s school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention 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 are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Kershaw County First focuses its investments in.... FAMILY STRENGTHENING, EARLY INTERVENTION, SCHOOL TRANSITION, AND QUALITY CHILD CARE
Identifying and referring children with possible developmental delays can help assure school readiness.

**Program Description**
First Steps’ Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development and coordinates public awareness for BabyNet services, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children.

**EI&R services include:**

1. **Screenings** (developmental, vision, hearing) for children ages birth to 5 years with suspected delays in development.
2. **Referrals**, based upon the screening results, to appropriate community resources. This could include the local BabyNet System Point of Entry Office, the local school district, and/or support services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and programs in libraries and other community resources.
3. **Parent information** including strategies to monitor growth and development.

Our EI&R program:
- Provides early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Promotes services and activities that promote child development
- Increases children’s school readiness and school success

**EI&R by the Numbers 2016-17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Distributed</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kershaw County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our EI&R families:

- 85% ... live in poverty
- 30% ... didn’t graduate high school
- 60% ... were teen parents

**Thank you to our partners!**

- Kershaw County Head Start
- Lil Angels Child Care Center
- United Way of Kershaw County
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

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

98% ... live in poverty

Books are given to families at each home visit.

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

✓ Averaged 13.6 home visits per family
✓ Identified and addressed 11 potential developmental delays and made 1 connections for families to services such as Babynet
✓ Kershaw County First Steps partnered with Lee County First Steps to administer the Parents As Teachers program in Lee County. 10 families received Parents as Teachers services in Lee County.
✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing over 126 books to families and encouraging reading each night. The Parent Educator followed up at each visit and discussed how to build literacy skills in the home.

Thank you to our partners!

Lee County First Steps
Lil Angels Child Care Center
United Way of Kershaw County

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Child Care Quality Enhancement

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, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Providers Served</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of TA Visits Provided</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2016-17!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider</th>
<th>Pre/Post Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lil Angels Child Care Center</td>
<td>From 3.99 to 4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethesda Christian School</td>
<td>From 4.78 to 5.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stepahnies’ Preschool Blessings</td>
<td>From 2.25 to 3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATEC Child Development Center</td>
<td>From 4.35 to 4.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

Data from post-tests showed that 99% of the centers increased their Environmental Rating Scale score. Combined, the 5 centers demonstrated an overall 60% improvement from the baseline to the post-test. The greatest areas of improvement were in program structure, activities, furnishings and arrangement of space, and interaction with the children. A side benefit has been improvement in business practices, which led to increased enrollment.

Recognizing the important role professional development plays in improving child care quality, the program has helped 8 child care center staff members meet DSS training requirements.

Thank you to our partners!

United Way of Kershaw County
Kershaw County Library
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.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- 100% of the Parents completed the pre and post survey and indicated that Countdown to Kindergarten assisted them with preparing their child for school.
- Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 95%

Thank you to our partners!

Kershaw County School District
Second Look Charities
Timrod Baptist Church

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.
2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Federal $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
<th>% of 2016-17 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$38,440</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,275</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$40,715</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
<td>$5,792</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$611</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$6,404</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
<td>$51,629</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$58,629</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Identification &amp; Referrals</td>
<td>$37,028</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$28,200</td>
<td>$65,228</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Program</td>
<td>$40,799</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$40,799</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$23,103</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$23,103</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$196,791</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$9,886</td>
<td>$28,200</td>
<td>$234,878</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged $1,318,912.50 from sources outside of state government.
Kershaw County First Steps Board of Directors and Camden Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. partnered to distribute books

Kershaw & Lee County First Steps partnered to host staff development trainings

Kershaw County First Steps celebrated 9 families graduating from the Parents As Teachers Program

Support Kershaw County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
Kershaw County First Steps Partnership Board met with community partners during 2016-2017. Key Outcomes from the Meetings held in July 2016 and August 2017. These participants saw the need for a commitment to the holistic needs of children and families that is community-based, culturally competent, and championed by leaders from all sectors of the community. They proposed ideas regarding ways to: • Provide support to families of young children • Encourage involvement of local businesses and business leaders in early childhood care and education issues • Identify, recruit, and retain qualified and inspired caregivers and teachers for our youngest children • Improve collaboration among initiatives and programs that support Kershaw County families with young children
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