

BEAUFORT COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality  
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Community Education

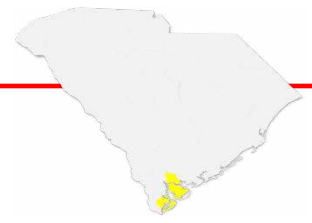
# Annual Report

2016-17



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Beaufort County
Children Under Five	293,134	10,133
Children In Poverty	24.4%	21.3%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	20.4%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	14.7%



- Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged \$2,049,445 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.30 for every dollar received.**
- **433.07 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 20 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 398.5 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17:**  
 Parents as Teachers 28  
 Quality Enhancement 452

### Beaufort County First Steps

2201 Boundary St., Suite 111  
 Beaufort, SC 29902

Phone: (843) 379-7837  
 Fax: (843) 379-7840

**Board Chair**  
 Ashley Hutchison

A lot has changed since First Steps was implemented into law in 1999 to address the growing need for quality early childhood services around the state. Beaufort County First Steps is proud to be a part of some of those positive changes. Though much has been done the need is still great.

Some of our programs and services have decreased over the years due to funding, however, Beaufort County First Steps' commitment to the vision of "preparing children for school readiness" remains as steadfast as ever. We believe every child has the right to the best possible childhood. Beaufort County First Steps staff works tirelessly to make everlasting changes to assist caregivers in achieving the social, intellectual, economic, physical and emotional potential for their children. While there has been progress over the years, we believe much more is possible.

Research on brain development is changing how we think about the early years. It has produced new insights on interacting with a child, managing behavior and preparing children to enter school healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps offers a variety of evidence-based programs and provides tools to increase caregivers' knowledge of early childhood development. We continue to collaborate with community partners to address the needs of children and families.

Thank you for being a part of Beaufort County First Steps and for the vital role you play in our work. Your support truly makes a difference!

### Beaufort County First Steps Staff

Betty Washington, Executive Director

Betty Ford, Program Assistant/Parent Educator

Lucette Brown, Parent Educator

Sheryl Newton, Early Child Educator

# What We Do

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, Beaufort County First Steps focuses its investments in.... Family Strengthening, Quality Childcare, Community Outreach, and Professional Development training for childcare professionals.**

# 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

**Beaufort First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:**

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 25% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 5% ... were teen parents
- 75% ... were single parent homes



**Ready to face the world!**

I started the PAT program in 2012. Being in the program has not only helped me make sure my daughter is hitting her developmental milestones, it also helped teach me cool activities to do with her to keep her attention and help her learn better. The challenge I overcame with the program was finding innovative ways to peak my daughters' learning skills.

It's truly been a pleasure working with you over these 5+ years...Ms. Brown I can't thank you enough for all your hard work in teaching me different ways to help teach my daughter with many different activities...they were fun and creative! She didn't want to stop the meeting!

Thanks again!

Tanyth Porter and Carley Holmes

## PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	20	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	330	
Hours Spent Serving Families	433.07	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	<b>KIPS</b> Baseline difference 0.58	<b>ACIRI</b> Baseline difference Adult: 0.44 Child: 0.58

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 16.5 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 1 potential developmental delay, and made 330 connections for families to services such as BabyNet, housing, employment services, tax services, early education program, health and medical services, food assistance/nutrition programs, job skill building, adult education and Medicaid.
- ✓ 553 books distributed to children and families served through PAT program.
- ✓ Conducted 12 Goup Connection meetings for families participating in PAT program.

## Thank you to our partners!

- BabyNet
- Beaufort Housing
- Cross Fit Port Royal Sound (Adopted 3 PAT families for Christmas)
- Beaufort/Burton Fire Department

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I entered into the Beaufort County First Steps Program when my daughter, Brielle was five months old. As a single, first time mom who was employed at the local job service office, I felt overwhelmed with the responsibility of not only starting my career but also being a parent. I knew I needed help. I reached out and wanted to receive all of the educational advice, parental guidance, encouragement and resources that would help me make sure my baby was developing intellectually and socially in keeping with her peers.

Each month, I would work with my parent educator who eagerly worked with me and my daughter doing various age appropriate activities. My parent educator also counseled with me about my concerns and community resources I could utilize. My parent educator had a great relationship with my daughter and was very supportive as we discussed the developmental stages of children. One of the most important things my parent educator emphasized to me was to **READ** each day to my baby. I followed through on not only reading to her but by working on the follow-up activities mentioned by my parent educator during our meetings. As I continued to work more closely with my daughter, I began to increase my level of confidence in not only being her mom, but as being her first teacher.

While in the program, I found love and was later married. We built and purchased our first home. We eventually had another child, a son this time, who was later enrolled in the First Steps program. I definitely knew my husband and I were in good hands because my parent educator was very helpful with my daughter, so my expectations were the same for my son. I continued to read stories given from the First Steps program and worked with my children on various activities to improve their fine motor skills and social development.

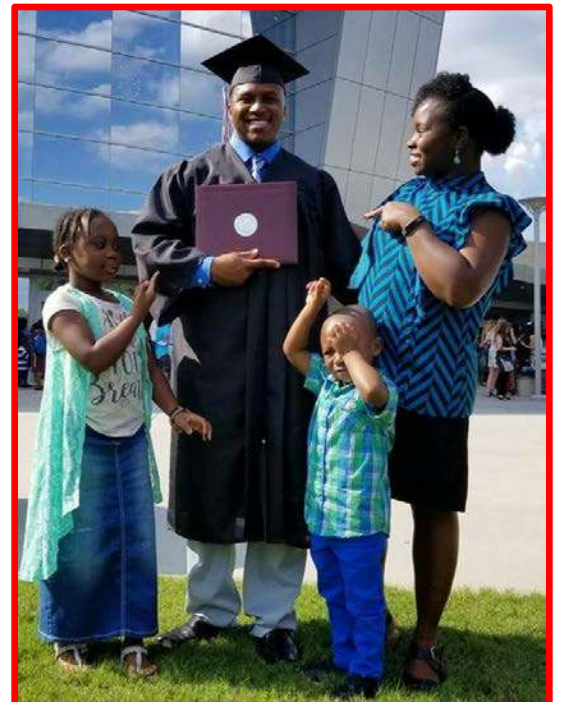
After having children of my own and working each day with them from the various resources provided to my family from the Beaufort County First Steps program, my passion for education increased. My daughter is currently going into the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is reading above grade level standards. My son will be starting the Pre-K program and is able to read the pictures and can answer questions about pictures within the story. Without the First Steps program and the guidance I received, none of this would have been possible.

The First Steps program has made a tremendous impact in the lives of my family. As a result of my active involvement in my children's education, I've made a personal commitment to myself to go back to college to obtain my Masters of Education Degree in Elementary Education. I am currently residing in the same community in which my school is zoned. As a current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Broad River Elementary School, I willingly serve my community and absolutely love what I do each day. Thank you so much for your commitment to serve parents and children every day.

Respectively Submitted,

Arriel "Burns" Young

*Education is definitely a priority for this family. Kudos to Dad on his graduation too.*



# Child Care Quality Enhancement

**In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.**

The quality of care young children receive 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 community 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)
7. Incentives for childcare staff completing ECD courses

**QE by the Numbers, 2016-17**

Child Care Providers Served	6
Number of TA Visits Provided	176
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	452

**This year, our Quality Enhancement program:**

- ✓ Client Satisfaction surveys 6/6 reported being completely satisfied with QE services provided by First Steps staff.
- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by +1.28 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 176 visits equating to 398.5 hours hours of technical assistance to six childcare providers.
- ✓ Provided \$30,000 in materials grants to participating child care providers.
- ✓ Provided incentives for eight childcare staff completing Early Childhood courses.

***Thank you to our partners!***

- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- SC DSS Child Care Licensing
- SC ABC Program
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- SC Inclusion
- Kaplan Early Learning

# Child Care Training



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.

*"Your team always do a great job in providing us with professional development training for our staff. Thank you! We appreciate all that you do".*

Quote taken from conference participant

Child Care Training Sponsored by Beaufort First Steps, 2016-17	
<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Growth and Development	Six sessions
Curriculum	Seventeen sessions :
Child Guidance	Two sessions
Professional Development	Six sessions
Program Administration	Ten sessions
Special Needs	One session
Blood-Borne Pathogens	Fifteen sessions



**2017 TEAM Lowcountry Conference Planning Committee & Staff**

## Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	576
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	325
Number of Training Sessions Offered	56



- This year, our Training program provided:**
- ✓ 325 early childhood staff with high quality training
  - ✓ 25 hours of certified training, 50 hours of registered training and 47 hours in First Aid CPR for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
  - ✓ 52 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

### Thank you to our partners!

- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- SC Inclusion
- Hope Horizons
- Center for Child Care Career Development (T.E.A.C.H.)
- Ridgeland Baptist Church
- The Baptist Church of Beaufort
- The Children's Center Inc.

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# Community Education

Working together, we continue to make a difference.

**Community support helps to keep our families grounded and focused on future goals.**

## Program Description

Beaufort County First Steps is committed to its community. We collaborate with community partners to address a variety of needs. Some of those efforts includes but is not limited to:

1. Community Health Fairs
2. Car Seat Safety (safety seat inspection and awareness)
3. KidFest (Child Abuse Prevention)
4. Back-to-School Expo (providing children with school supplies)
5. Sheldon Township Community Support Partnership
6. SC Thrive (assistance with taxes, FASA and other community resources)

*Thank you---We appreciate the support that was given to our family. The donation of back-to-school supplies helped to get our children on the right path for a new beginning.*

*Adopted family by EOS chapter with back to school supplies.*



## Community Education by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	6,115
Families Served	1,131

## This year, our Community Education program:

- ✓ Made it possible to distribute 1,437 educational materials during 44 community events i.e. KidFest, Community Health Fair, Car Seat Safety Program, Book give-away
- ✓ Assisted in getting 12 individuals trained as safety seat technicians
- ✓ Inspected more than 50 car seats and provided educational materials to caregivers
- ✓ \$92,00 in-kind donation of books from Greater Goods made possible to serve children and families from other Lowcountry Communities. 7,830 books given to children through this generous donation.
- ✓ Served more than 600 children during Back-to-School expos

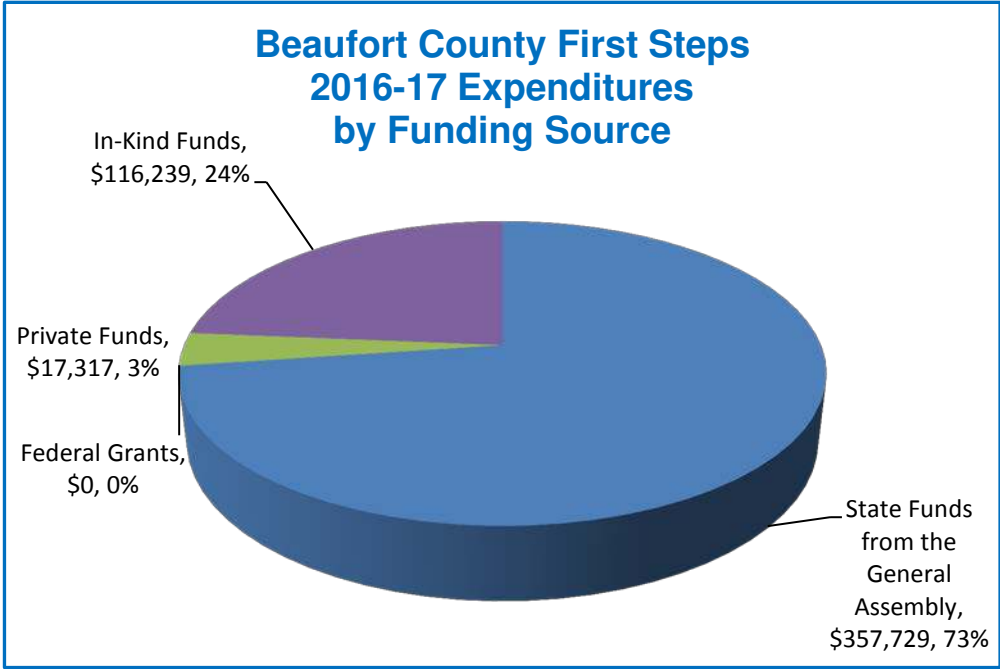
## Thank you to our partners!

- Greater Goods
- SC Highway Patrol
- Children’s Trust of SC
- SC Thrive

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$491,285**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17\*: 37%**

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

**2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy**

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$93,030	\$0	\$3,670	\$26,135	<b>\$122,835</b>	<b>25%</b>
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$118,550	\$0	\$2,227	\$29,844	<b>\$150,621</b>	<b>31%</b>
Child Care Training	\$74,184	\$0	\$9,229	\$28,798	<b>\$112,211</b>	<b>23%</b>
Community Education	\$7,638	\$0	\$0	\$24,359	<b>\$31,997</b>	<b>7%</b>
Program Support	\$33,913	\$0	\$1,311	\$5,327	<b>\$40,551</b>	<b>8%</b>
Administrative Support	\$30,414	\$0	\$880	\$1,776	<b>\$33,070</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$357,729</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,317</b>	<b>\$116,239</b>	<b>\$491,285</b>	

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

**Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged \$2,049,444.64 from sources outside of state government. That's 30 cents for every state dollar.**

# Thank you to our supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Beaufort First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

## Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$362,000  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*
- Beaufort Fund: \$7,000
- Greenville Technical College: \$2,000
- Born To Read: \$3,600
- SC BabyNet: \$9,000

## In-Kind Support

- Beaufort County School District
- ABC Child Care
- SC DSS Child Care Licensing
- Ridgeland Baptist Child Care Ministry
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- Greater Goods
- Kaplan Early Learning
- Sam Club
- Miller Swamp Baptist
- Beginnings SC
- SC Inclusion



Board Rep., Kathleen McTeer, reading Christmas story at Group Connection meeting.

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CrossFit Port Royal Sound (Barry Pepper) makes the holidays a little brighter for First Steps families.



**How your support helps children in Beaufort County:**

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child with one book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$50 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting Group Connection meeting
- ✓ 65 provided a car seat to keep children safe on the highway
- ✓ \$500 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

**HOW TO GIVE:** Send donations to Beaufort County First Steps, P.O. Box 6421, Beaufort, SC 29903

## Save the Date!

- April 7, 2018 is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual KidFest to Celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child. Cross Creek Shopping Center, Beaufort, SC 29902, 10:30 am-2:30 pm.
- April 16-20, 2018 Week of the Young Child
- April 19-20, 2018 T.E.A.M. Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference, Ridgeland Baptist Church, 1448 Grays Highway, Ridgeland, SC 29936

**Support Beaufort First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!**

## Dedication, commitment and the will to make a difference.

Caring for our children is a shared responsibility. When families, communities and schools work together, children are more successful and the entire community benefits. Beaufort County First Steps Board of Directors is a prime example of that commitment as they bring their passion, talents, and energy to help make our organization stronger. A stronger organization makes for more successful outcomes.

Beaufort County First Steps Board of Directors recently went through an intense board training and followed that with a Regional Board Retreat with folks from Hampton and Jasper County First Steps. They continue to learn and to network for the betterment of the organization. They recognize the importance of early child education and the effect it has on later school success. Our board supports all of our programs and volunteers when possible to lend a helping hand; i.e. reading at parent group meeting, setting up for annual conference, donating to the cause. We are confident that our board will do what needs to be done to ensure services are directed as indicated by the needs of our community. We look forward to their continued commitment but will sadly say goodbye to a number of folks whose time is nearing the end of their terms on the board.

We are looking forward to filing new positions in accordance with revised by-laws and welcome anyone with the passion to work for the benefit of young children to join us in our mission of getting children prepared to reach Kindergarten ready to succeed.

## Beaufort County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
<b>Ashley Hutchison, Chair</b>	Early Child Director/Beaufort County School	County School Representative
<b>Julia Burnes, Vice-Chair</b>	Education Manager/Beaufort Jasper Head Start	Head Start Representative
<b>Nan Krueger, Secretary</b>	Nurse/Beaufort Pediatrics	Health Care Provider
<b>Leroy Gillard, Treasurer</b>	Executive Director/Beaufort Jasper EOC	Transportation Provider
<b>Tonya Allen-Jenkins</b>	Site Director/The Children Center Inc.	Child Care, ECD/ED Provider
<b>Ronald Manyin</b>	Arts in Schools Coordinator, Friends of Music	Non-Profit Organization
<b>Nancy Priester</b>	County Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
<b>York Glover</b>	Retired/Clemson Extension	Faith Community
<b>Marilyn C. Jenkins</b>	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
<b>Arriel Burns Young</b>	Educator /Beaufort County School	Parent of Preschool Child
<b>Kathleen M. McTeer</b>	Librarian/Beaufort County Library	County Library Representative
<b>Ernestine Morris</b>	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
<b>Madie Orage-Green</b>	Program Coordinator I	DHEC Representative
<b>Dr. Jean Murray</b>	Retired Educator	Family Ed., Training & Support
<b>Lauren Furman-Boggs</b>	Educator, Beaufort County School	Pre-K Primary Education
<b>Wanda Grant</b>	Educator, Beaufort County School	Business Community

# Getting children ready for school.

## 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 with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



### EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/ehs/>



[I CAN] is First Steps' public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state's Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

Visit: [ican.sc](http://ican.sc)

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