



- Raising A Reader
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Training
- Early Steps to School Success
- Scholarship Initiatives

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:
Every child in Barnwell County will arrive at Kindergarten ready to succeed.

Board Chair Message

Marianne Williamson once said: *“Success means we go to sleep at night knowing that our talents and abilities were used in a way that served others.”*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Barnwell County First Steps, I want to take this opportunity to thank our local partners, childcare centers, service provider, donors and supporters for helping us to make 2018 a stellar year for the families of Barnwell County. Because of your passion and commitment to serving others, this year has brought much success to our program. I can truly say I am honored to be a part of this winning team.

Because of your passion and commitment, Barnwell County First Steps has been able to do so much for the families, especially the children, of Barnwell County during the past year.

We have increased the number of childcare scholarships provided to deserving children. We have provided additional training for the childcare centers to enhance the childcare experience for the children we serve. We have secured and distributed funds to help make improvements to the childcare facilities, and we are proud to have increased the number of childcare centers being awarded scholarships. Just to name a few things.

In 2018 we reestablished partnership with state and local organizations to include a partnership with the Barnwell Family YMCA. All to increase our efforts to reach and serve more families within our communities. Yes, 2018 has truly been a year of success, but let me tell you “The best is yet to come.”

As Board Chairperson I am so honored to be a part of such loving and caring and passionate group of partners, I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year. So sleep well tonight knowing that all the success of all that you do can be seen in the bright eyes and the smiling faces of the children and families we serve.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Holston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John D. Holston, Board Chairperson, Barnwell County First Steps

OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to provide early childhood education programs designed to ensure that Barnwell County children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed.

Find Barnwell First Steps:



scfirststeps.com

11015 Ellenton Street Barnwell, SC 29812 (803) 621-2441

We get children ready.



THE NEED

School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Barnwell County.

How are Barnwell County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
1,313 are under age 5	0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	3 licensed child care centers
35.9% live in poverty	66 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	5 licensed group/family homes
17.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	129 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	60% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
11.6% Children under 18 with no parent in workforce	80 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	3 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
29.10% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	37 were served by 	82 families received assistance with affording child care last year
<i>Kids Count data provided by:</i> 	<i>Data provided by:</i> 	

THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Barnwell County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- To increase the reach of BCFS programs and children/families served, BCFS will research, apply for, and obtain additional sources of funding with support from the state office of First Steps;
- To ensure continuity and quality of program implementation, BCFS attract and retain qualified, quality staff (particularly for some Early Steps and Countdown to Kindergarten programs);
- To ensure the most possible Barnwell County children/families are served by BCFS programs (in particular Early Steps and Child Care Training), BCFS will bolster recruitments efforts to ensure programs are filled to fullest capacity.
- Train BCFS staff to screen all children participating in BCFS programs for disabilities; and ensure those children who are screened and found to have delays are connected to necessary services in the community.
- Improve efforts to support parents/families in advancing life skills to better enable them to raise children who are prepared to enter school.
- Increase public awareness of Barnwell County First Steps

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Barnwell County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **114 children and 105 adults** with **intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being **through programs such as Early Steps to School Success**
- ✓ **53 staff** working in **74** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 513 children ages 0-5 in their care (Childcare Training)**
- ✓ financial assistance to help **68 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school (**Child Care Scholarships**)
- ✓ **26,268 books** to **spark the love of reading** for 715 children (**Early Steps, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Community engagement**)
- ✓ a total of **715 children and 256 adults** were impacted by Barnwell County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

School Readiness Outcomes

What is the KRA?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

Blackville (41 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	24%	41%	34%
Language&Literacy	20%	34%	46%
Mathematics	17%	29%	54%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	37%	41%
OVERALL	17%	37%	46%

Williston-Elko (62 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	31%	40%
Language&Literacy	19%	55%	26%
Mathematics	31%	50%	19%
Physical Dev&WB	15%	32%	53%
OVERALL	23%	48%	29%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%

Barnwell (186 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	40%	23%	38%
Language&Literacy	25%	47%	27%
Mathematics	30%	47%	23%
Physical Dev&WB	44%	30%	26%
OVERALL	30%	45%	25%

- 1. Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- 2. Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
- 3. Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
- 4. Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

Demonstrating Readiness: student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Approaching Readiness: student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

Emerging Readiness: student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

What is Barnwell County First Steps doing to improve KRA results ?

Barnwell County First Steps will help to improve KRA by focusing on the family unit. We will better enable parents/caregivers to raise children who are prepared to enter school. Barnwell will improve efforts to support them in advancing their own life skills through targeted workshops, resources, instruction, and coaching. We will continue to provide home visiting services to our parents which will help parents to become more familiar with different strategies to help their child to become lovers of literacy.

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.

"Barnwell County First Steps is a wonderful convener for training for our center, parents, and community. The trainings are so helpful in both the classroom and at home!"

- Bettie, Training Participant

Training Sponsored by Barnwell First Steps, 2017-18

Topic:

- Brian Development, Infant/Toddler Continuum of Development
- Preschoolers' Growth and Development
- Developing Friendship Skills
- Intentional Teaching, Planned Physical Activity and Social-Emotional Teaching Strategies
- Teaching Styles: How It Affects Behavior
FIGHT! Is it Aggression or Rough Housing?
- "Why, Because I Said So Doesn't Work"



Group Activity

Training Topic: Developing Friendship Skills

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	73
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	29
Number of Training Sessions Offered	13

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 74 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 53 providers and 513 children
- ✓ 20 hours of certified training and 2 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 17 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our Training partners!

Save the Children	Heavenly Angels
Barnwell School District 19	New Jerusalem
Barnwell School District 29	Bedford's Stay
Barnwell School District 45	Barnwell Library

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Barnwell County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no - affordable care options.

Barnwell First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

35.9% ... live in poverty

17.7% ... didn't graduate from high school

4.4% ... were teen parents

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

"When I got my new job, I didn't know how I was going to pay for both my girls to attend a childcare center, then I applied for scholarship assistance from First Steps. They helped me to be able to keep my job."

- Whitley Raysor



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	72
Providers Served	3

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 62 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 28 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 90 connections for families to services such as Early Steps to School Success and Scholarships
- ✓ Supported 3 small businesses in Barnwell County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 8 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as "It's In the Bag" and "Read the Room"

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

Save the Children

Heavenly Angels

Barnwell School District 19

New Jerusalem

Barnwell School District 29

Bedford's Stay

Barnwell School District 45

Barnwell Library

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence-based programs:

Childcare Training and Early 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 2017

Children Served	20
Families Served	20
Home/School Visits	117

**CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*



"We have a great staff of teachers here who are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure our children are getting all necessary tools to live successful lives at an early age. Barnwell County First Steps was recognized as a significant part of our excellence, so thanks again!"

- Rev. Butterfield

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 18 out of 20 parents read to their child for at least 15 minutes per day
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 50%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in Language and Literacy Development during the 2017-18 school year.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education in attending Parent/Teacher conference.

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Barnwell County School District
Kaplan Early Learning Company
EdVenture Children's Museum
The People Sentinel

Like us on Facebook!
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina



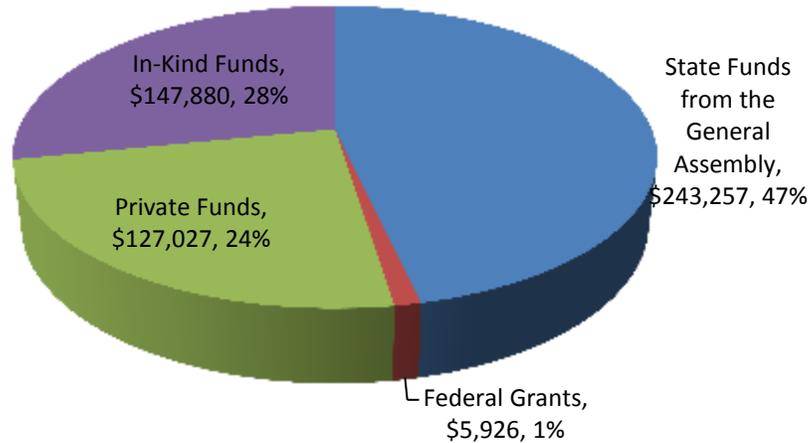
Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an *evidence-informed* program.



Financial Impact

Barnwell County First Steps 2017-18 Expenditures by Funding Source



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$524,090

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 115%

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

2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Early Steps	\$29,372	\$0	\$28,952	\$32,279	\$90,603	17%
Child Care Training	\$42,643	\$0	\$1,635	\$1,591	\$45,869	9%
Child Care Scholarships	\$73,612	\$0	\$96,440	\$113,750	\$283,802	54%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$7,612	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,612	1%
Program Support	\$68,867	\$0	\$0	\$260	\$69,127	13%
Administrative Support	\$21,151	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,151	4%
Community Education	\$0	\$5,927	\$0	\$0	\$5,927	1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$243,256	\$5,927	\$127,027	\$147,880	\$524,091	100%

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

Since inception, Barnwell County First Steps has leveraged \$2,218,902.07 from sources outside of state government. That's 55 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through *South Carolina First Steps*)

The Darnell Initiative: \$127,027.00

The United Way of Barnwell: \$500.00

In-Kind Support

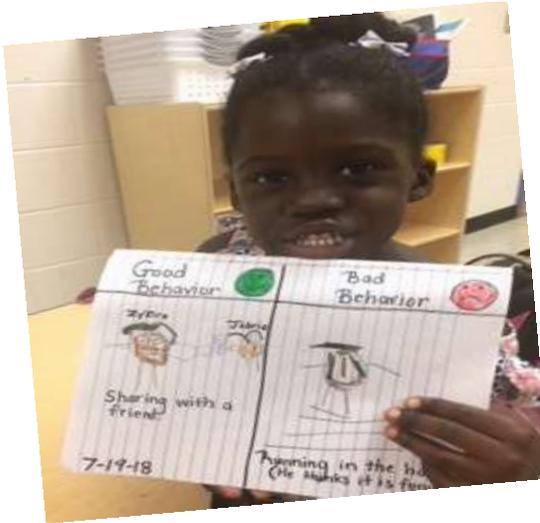
Barwell County School District

Districts 19, 29, and 45

IGA Supermarket

Children's Trust

Save the Children



How your support helps children in Barnwell County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$250 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$330 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month
- ✓ \$75 per child helped identify and address 28 potential developmental delays among scholarship children

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to donate to our organization, please visit our Facebook page,
mail donations to 11015 Ellenton Street in Barnwell, S.C. 29812
or visit our office at the previous noted address.

Support Barnwell County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

Community Impact

Caring and Patience: Key Ingredients for Success

Kaylee was extremely shy. In fact she was so shy that her parents thought that she may have been autistic. Kaylee did not show any interest in learning, or socializing with her peers. Kaylee required an aid to be with her in the classroom. Kaylee's parents were determined to help Kaylee become all that they knew she could become. Kaylee's mom would visit Kaylee in the 4K program at her school. Her mom would follow whatever advice was given to Kaylee by her teachers. Ms. Bates, one of Kaylee's teachers, asked her mom if she could participate in the Countdown to Kindergarten program. Her mom was of course willing to allow Kaylee to participate in the Countdown program.



During the 2nd home visits, Ms. Bates noticed a change in Kaylee's attitude towards the activities. She noticed that Kaylee began to participate more in the activities. Her mom said that Kaylee looked forward to Ms. Bates visits. Kaylee completed the Countdown Home visiting program, and was excited to be a part of the End of the Year Celebration. In just the six weeks that Kaylee spent with Ms. Bates in the Countdown program, she exhibited such progress that she no longer needs her aide. Although we know that a combination of factors may have contributed to Kaylee's success, we are confident that the time that she spent one-to-one with Ms. Bates contributed to her current success in her Kindergarten classroom. Kaylee is socializing with her peers, and is willing to participate in group activities. Kaylee's mom expressed how grateful she is for the one-to-one time that was provided to Kaylee by Barnwell County First Steps Countdown to Kindergarten Program. She is sure that it was the time spent that has helped Kaylee to have a great start to her Kindergarten school year!

First Steps Partnership Board

When we all work together.....

Barnwell County First Steps and Denmark Technical College teamed up to bring an extraordinary literacy event for the Week of the Young Child. The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children that celebrates early learning, teachers, and families. Parents, caregivers, children, childcare center teachers, and community partners participated in a day of fun that included the theme, "Alice In Wonderland". Participants enjoyed literacy games, story time, and lots of delicious food. Barnwell County First Steps provided volunteers, costumes, and at least 500 books. Another example of great works that can be accomplished for our community when we all work together.

Barnwell County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
John Holston, Chair 2016	Chief of Police, Blackville, South Carolina	Local Government
Debbie Fickling, Vice Chair	Barnwell County Administrator	Local Government
Kathy Fox	Office Manager, Axis 1	Non-Profit
Lisa Johnson	MOX Facility-SRS	Business Community
Becky Huggins	Insurance Consultant	Business Community
Ethel Williams	Director, Department of Social Services	DSS
Sheila Silon	Lead Nurse, Building Supervisor	DHEC
Tricia Gordon	Barnwell Library Manager	Library
Kimberly Richardson	Teacher	Williston School District
Teresa Brown	Principal	Blackville-Hilda School District
Kay Gooding	Asst. Principal	Barnwell School District
Catherine Mack	Foster Parent	Senate Appointment

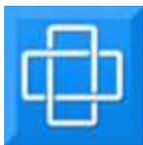
What is First Steps?

At the state level and in every county, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina's children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child's first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

First Steps Goals

- (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.

First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



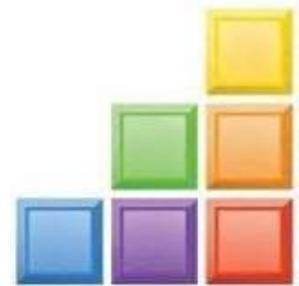
School Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

Local portals connecting preschool children and families to services

Conveners of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

Champions of the importance of school readiness to our children's future.



for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:

scfirststeps.org

for Barnwell County First Steps:

<http://scfirststeps.com/barnwell/>



[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

Like us on Facebook: [icansc](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)