

KERSHAW COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality
Enhancement

Early Identification & Referral

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every Kershaw County
child will be prepared for
success in school.

Kershawfirststeps.org

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Efforts to ensure every children enters School ready to Learn!

The whole world seems to be catching on to the idea that learning starts at birth, and that it takes place, not just in the home, but in the early learning centers that we call “child care.” The science of brain development, coupled with long-term studies that compare children who have received high quality preschool experiences with those who have not, point to the need for public policies that support families in being able to find and afford high quality child care and out-of-school-time programs. Children do better in school and in life if they receive this positive early start. At Kershaw County First Steps, we feel a strong responsibility to educate parents, providers, public policy makers and other members of the community on why school readiness is so important.

In my seventeen years as Executive Director of Kershaw County First Steps, I have never felt more hopeful about the future. Our community partners are incubating some of the best thinking in the country about improving school readiness and I am convinced that, working together, we will all arrive at our vision of getting ALL children ready for school.



Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director

Kimberley

Kimberley Jordan
Executive Director

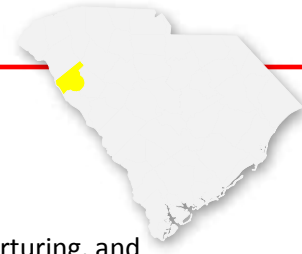
OUR MISSION:

Through community collaboration, KCFS will provide access to resources and support for families, enabling children to enter school ready to learn.

Find Kershaw County First Steps:







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 Kershaw County.

How are Kershaw 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?
3,857 are under age 5	16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	19 licensed child care centers
21.5% live in poverty	71 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	5 licensed group/family homes
13.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	124 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	33% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
6.1% Children under 18 with no parent in the workforce.	208 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	5 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
27% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	54 were served by 	185 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 Kershaw County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Leadership as a Convener & Partner
2. Make Programs and Community Resources Accessible
3. Increase Public Awareness
4. Capacity Building

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Kershaw County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **27 children and 27 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
- ✓ **19 staff** working in **4** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 208 children ages 0-5 in their care**
- ✓ **769 books** to **spark the love of reading** for **485 children**
- ✓ a total of **317 children and 122 adults** were impacted by Kershaw 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:

Kershaw County School District (772 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	35%	30%	35%
Language&Literacy	29%	45%	27%
Mathematics	38%	41%	21%
Physical Dev&WB	38%	25%	38 %
OVERALL	34%	39%	27%

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%

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 Kershaw County First Steps doing to improve KRA results :

- With community partners, Kershaw County First Steps will host early childhood clinics, in hard to reach communities to share “ school readiness information and available intervention services in the community”
- Partner with early education and care Directors to develop strategies to promote successful transitions from early childhood programs into school.
- Provide training and technical assistance to child care providers
 - to encourage parent involvement,
 - to understand the Kindergarten Readiness Asssment (KRA) , and
 - to design classrooms that facilitate learning in the areas of language, math, gross motor, fine motor, and social -emotional development.

Early Identification and Referral

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 up 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

"The key to my child's success is finding him the help he needed early! Thank you to First Steps for the help.

Calvin Cooke, Parent EIR



Rudine McLeod, Program Director

EI&R by the Numbers 2017-18

Children Served	79
Materials Distributed	1014
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	58

This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- ✓ Screened 77 number of children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred 58 number of families to community resources after screening indicated need

Thank you to our EI&R partners!

Kershaw County School District
 Kershaw County Head Start
 Kershaw County Child Care Providers

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Early Identification and Referral meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



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:

27 ... live in poverty

4 ... were teen parents



2017-2018 Parents AS Teachers Graduating Class

"They helped my family with teaching knowledge and skills such as how to prepare for storytime. I used to think it was too expensive, to have a lot of books, but with First Steps we have our own library.

Isabell Hernandez

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	27	
Children Served	27	
Total Home Visits	414	
Hours Spent Serving Families	437.52	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.14	3.55

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 15.33 home visits per family
- ✓ Participating child care providers completed a minimum of 2 goals on Family Service Plan
- ✓ Over 408 books were distributed during the home visits and parent meetings

Thank you to our PAT partners!

Lee County First Steps

Kershaw County Child Care Providers

KC Library

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



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, 2017-18

Child Care Providers Served	4
Number of TA Visits Provided	88
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	208

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Bethesda Christian School	From 5.08 to 5.71
Stephanie's Preschool Blessings	From 4.30 to 4.50
A TEC Child Development Center	From 5.43 to 5.57
Lugoff Early Learning Center	From 3.98 to 5.14

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by .37 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 97 hours of technical assistance to child care providers, contributing to the professional growth of 19 child care teachers and directors
- ✓ Provided \$3800 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

- SC Center for Child Care Career Development
- Kershaw County School District
- Kershaw County Library
- United Way of Kershaw County

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Quality Enhancement meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



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	3
Families Served	3
Home/School Visits	18

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



Meeting the Parents in the Hard to reach areas!

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of the Kershaw County Countdown to Kindergarten teachers surveyed stated that the program accomplished the goal of targeting at-risk children in the county.
- ✓ Kershaw County Countdown to Kindergarten teachers surveyed stated that majority of the children participating were more successful than other students from similar backgrounds.
- ✓ 100% of the Kershaw County parents surveyed state that they would be involved at the child's school
- ✓ 85% of the Kershaw County parents surveyed stated that they have a better relationship with their child's teacher

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Bethune Elementary
Midway Elementary

Like us on Facebook!

Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

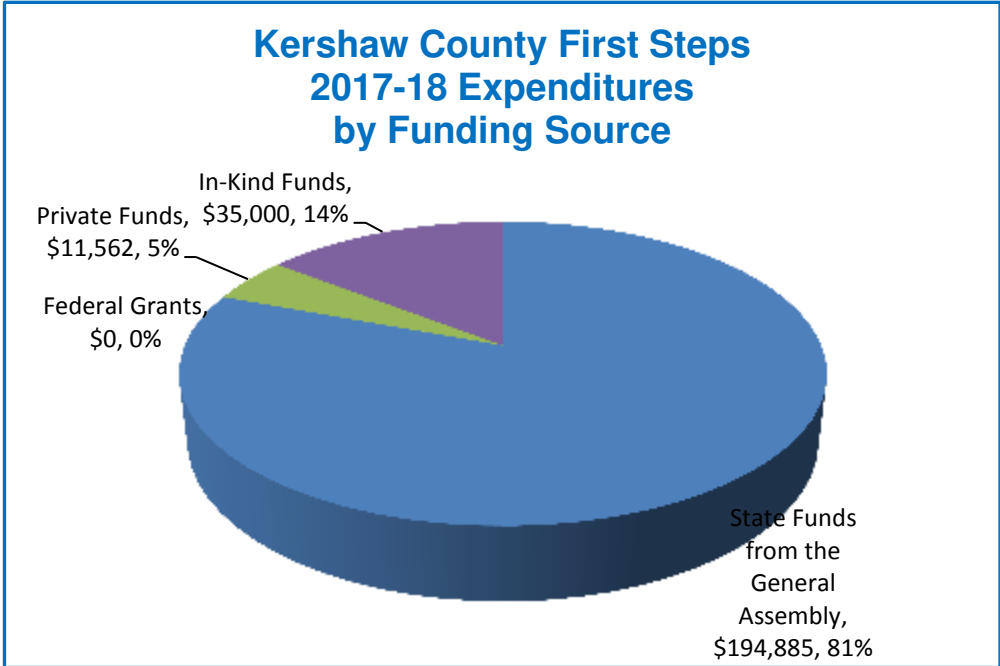


Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$241,447

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 24%

*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
Parents as Teachers	\$47,521	\$0	\$329	\$0	\$47,851	20%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$9,316	\$0	\$68	\$0	\$9,383	4%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$59,390	\$0	\$10,980	\$0	\$70,370	29%
Early Identification Referrals	\$29,618	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$64,618	27%
Program Support	\$26,892	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,892	11%
Administrative Support	\$22,148	\$0	\$186	\$0	\$22,333	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$194,885	\$0	\$11,562	\$35,000	\$241,447	

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

Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged \$1,567,279.31 from sources outside of state government. That's 41 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Kershaw 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)

United Way of Kershaw County: \$8300

Camden First Methodist Church : \$2000

In-Kind Support

Kershaw Clemson Extension Family Building

Emanuel Baptist Church

Lugoff Early Learning Center

Stephanie's Preschool Blessings



How your support helps children in Kershaw County:

- ✓ \$48 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$10 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop

HOW TO GIVE:

Send to Kershaw County First Steps

P.O. Box 669 Camden, SC 29021

Save the Date!

Join Kershaw County First Steps for our
2018 Annual Meeting & Client Appreciation Event

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Contact the Kershaw County First Steps Office (803) 432-7756 for details

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

Supporting Parents in Kershaw County

A Partnership between Home and School

145 Parent Packets distributed

A Strong Partnership between Kershaw County First Steps, Kershaw County School District and local Child Care Providers to provide Early Care and Education Parent Education

Bethesda Christian School

ATEC Child Development Center

Stephanie's Preschool Blessings

Lugoff Early Learning Center



Baron DeKalb Elementary

Bethune Elementary



First Steps Partnership Board

Kershaw County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Stephen Wilson, Chair	VC3	Business Community
Jennifer Kelley, Vice Chair	Outreach Coordinator, KC Library	Library Representative
Sheila Williams, Secretary	Accountant, Williams Plumbing Company, LLC	Business Community
Pam Whitehead, Asst. Secretary	Early Childhood, KC School District	School District Representative
William James, Treasurer	CPA, AGFIRST	Business Community
Jeanne W. Hanna	Director, KC Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Cynthia Bolin	Director, Bethesda Christian School	Child Care Representative
Charlene Hayward	Family Service Spec, Bishopville Head Start	Head Start Representative
Veronica Lewis	Program Manager, KC Board of Disabilities	Nonprofit of Families & Child
David Roberts	Program Manager, Sandhills Medical Foundation	Healthcare Provider
Margaret Lawhorn	Program Manager, United Way of KC	House Appointee
Leslie Williams	Director, Central Carolina Technical College	Family Education
Florence Darby	Teacher	Pre-K/Primary Education
Meredith Hines	Teacher, Montessori School of Camden	Child Care Provider
Audra Scott	Program Manager, KC Health Department	DHEC Representative
Lydia Hall	Teacher, KC School District	Pre K/Prmary Educator
Betty Turner	Principal, KC School District	Pre K/Primary Educator

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 Kershaw County First Steps:

kershawfirststeps.org



[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**

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