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

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

Kershawfirststeps.org
110 E. DeKalb Street, Camden, SC 29020  ♦  (803) 432-7756  ♦  kim.jordan@kershawfirststeps.org
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

OUR MISSION:

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

Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How are Kershaw County's children doing?</th>
<th>What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:</th>
<th>Where can families access child care in our county?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,857 are under age 5</td>
<td>16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers</td>
<td>19 licensed child care centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.5% live in poverty</td>
<td>71 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds</td>
<td>5 licensed group/family homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma</td>
<td>124 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start</td>
<td>33% participate in the state’s Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1% Children under 18 with no parent in the workforce.</td>
<td>208 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.</td>
<td>5 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27% of last year’s kindergartners demonstrated readiness</td>
<td>54 were served by Kershaw County First Steps</td>
<td>185 families received assistance with affording child care last year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kids Count data provided by: Data provided by: SC Profile Early Childhood and ABC Quality

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.

Kershawfirststeps.org  ♦ kim.jordan@kershawfirststeps.org
Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director  ♦ (803)432-7756  ♦ Stephen Wilson, Board Chair
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Approaching</th>
<th>Demonstrating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Foundations</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Dev &amp; WB</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OVERALL</strong></td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Approaching</th>
<th>Demonstrating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Foundations</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Dev &amp; WB</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OVERALL</strong></td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Assessment (KRA), and
  - to design classrooms that facilitate learning in the areas of language, math, gross motor, fine motor, and social-emotional development.
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*

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**EI&R by the Numbers 2017-18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Distributed</td>
<td>1014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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“**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

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**PAT by the Numbers 2017-18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving Families</td>
<td>437.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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

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**Thank you to our PAT partners!**

- Lee County First Steps
- Kershaw County Child Care Providers
- KC Library

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**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Providers Served</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of TA Visits Provided</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider</th>
<th>Pre/Post Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bethesda Christian School</td>
<td>From 5.08 to 5.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie’s Preschool Blessings</td>
<td>From 4.30 to 4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATEC Child Development Center</td>
<td>From 5.43 to 5.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lugoff Early Learning Center</td>
<td>From 3.98 to 5.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**Evidence of Effectiveness:**

Our partnership’s Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-informed program.
Kershaw County First Steps
2017-18 Expenditures
by Funding Source

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

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

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**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

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**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

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

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

Support Kershaw First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
### First Steps Partnership Board

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**Kershaw County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18**

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

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**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.

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for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:  
scfirststeps.org  
for Kershaw County First Steps:  
kershawfirststeps.org

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[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