

SALUDA COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parent Training

Family Literacy

Nurse Family Partnership

Child Care Quality
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Early Head Start

Countdown to Kindergarten

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every Saluda County
child will be prepared
to succeed in school.

Saluda County First Steps

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How Big Is The World?

“How big is the world?” asked Little Mole when he met a tiny spider. “As big as my web,” the spider replied. “My web is the world. There isn’t any more.” And the spider crawled away to the end of her world. Little Mole came upon a mouse. “How big is the world?” he asked. “As big as my field,” replied the mouse. “My field is the world.” And the mouse scampered away to the end of his world.

(Teckentrup, B. **How Big Is The World?** New York: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. 2007.)

Little Mole sets out to explore the world in answer to his question, “How big is the world?” As you review the information presented in this annual report, I hope that you see that Saluda County First Steps has endeavored to expand the world of the families and children that we serve. Through programs such as Early Head Start, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Quality Enhancement, and Parent Training, our focus is to support parents and their young children to succeed in preparing for school, to show them a world beyond their current boundaries, and to help them along that journey.

Little Mole ends his adventure by snuggling with daddy. “How big is the world?” whispered papa. “As big as you want it to be,” said Little Mole quietly, and he went to sleep.

Through your support and contributions, we can make a difference in Saluda County. Together, we can meet the mission of Saluda County First Steps to help families and caregivers prepare their children to succeed in school and make their world as big as they want it to be.

Deborah Padgett

Executive Director

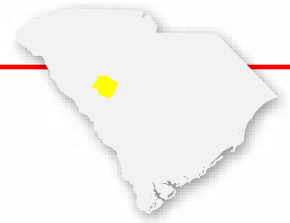


OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, Saluda County First Steps helps families and caregivers **prepare their children to succeed in school** by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.





Find Saluda County First Steps:





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 Saluda County.

How are Saluda 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?
1,240 are under age 5	85 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	6 licensed child care centers
27.5% live in poverty	56 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	4 licensed group/family homes
37.1% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	119 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	20% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
46 Founded investigation for child abuse and neglect	22 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	1 providers are rated B or higher by A B C Quality
11% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	12 were served by 	16 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 Saluda County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase the number of children under 5 and their families in Saluda county who benefit from quality early childhood services, throughout the continuum of pre-birth to school entry.
2. Improve the safety and well-being of children in Saluda by strengthening families.
3. Increase community awareness and support for Saluda County First Steps.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Saluda County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **33 children and 38 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 (**Triple P Parenting Program**)
- ✓ **12 staff** working in **1 child care provider** with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 43 children ages 0-5 in their care** (**Quality Enhancement Program**)
- ✓ **1,658 books** to spark the love of reading for **170 children** (**Quality Enhancement, Child Care Training, Early Head Start, 4K, Countdown to Kindergarten**)
- ✓ a total of **143 children** and **135 adults** were impacted by Saluda 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:



Getting ready for story time.

SALUDA SCHOOL DISTRICT (204 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	48%	31%	21%
Language&Literacy	57%	33%	10%
Mathematics	59%	28%	13%
Physical Dev&WB	40%	31%	29%
OVERALL	55%	34%	11%

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 Saluda County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Saluda County First Steps is collaborating with Saluda Primary School to provide an enhanced early education program. One component of this new program is a bi-lingual staff member to meet with Latino children and parents to explain the school culture and expectations, assist students with learning the English language, and partnering with teachers to mentor Latino students in mastering academic skills. A second component is a staff member to work with English-speaking students to provide reading intervention. Services for this enhanced early education program has been expanded to continue working with children who received Countdown to Kindergarten services.

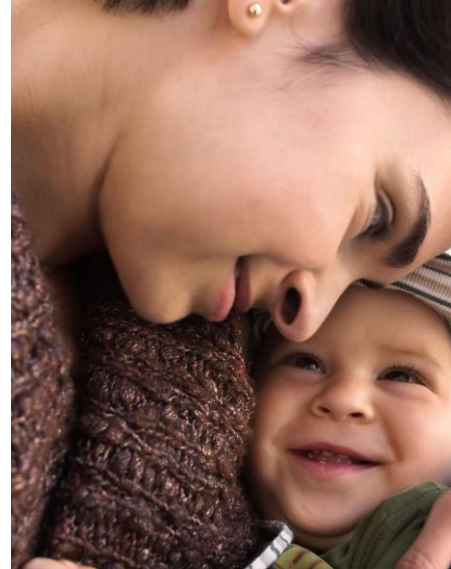
Nurse-Family Partnership

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

In Saluda County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Carolina Health Centers, Inc.



Saluda First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our NFP families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 62.5% ... graduate from high school
- 25% ... birth weight <5 lbs

NFP by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	8
Number of Home Visits	153

This year, our NFP program:

- ✓ 62.5% received immunizations
- ✓ 62.5% were assessed with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ 37.5% completed 6 months or more of services

Thank you to our NFP partners!

- U.S. Department of Education
- Carolina Health Centers
- Saluda Schools Early Head Start

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Nurse-Family Partnership meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an *evidence-based* program.



Parent Training

Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.

Program Description

Positive Parenting Program and *Make Parenting a Pleasure* are evidence-based, group-based parenting education and support programs for parents with children 0-8 years of age. Focus of the program is for parents to: learn practical stress management and communication skills; gain greater understanding of their child; learn effective parenting skills and positive approaches to discipline; and build a support network. Services include:

1. **Group Meetings** at least 4 times
2. **Sessions** last 2 – 2.5 hours with families
3. **Parent booklets** that contain class and home activities
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed



Parent Training by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	33
Children Served	33
Total Group Meetings	24
Hours Spent Serving Families	48

This year, our Parent Training program:

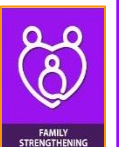
- ✓ Continued its strong collaboration with Saluda County Department of Social Services to provide parent education services.
- ✓ Tightly integrated parent education with the Family Literacy program.
- ✓ Strengthened 33 families and children through parenting training and education.

Thank you to our Parent Training partners!

Saluda County Department of Social Services
 Saluda Schools Early Head Start
 Saluda County Adult Education

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Positive Parenting Program meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Family Literacy

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

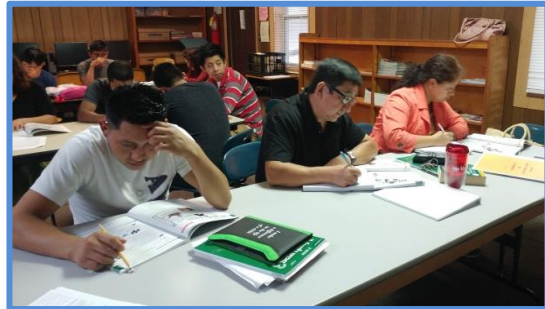
Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

Our family literacy program:

- ✓ **Helps parents of young children increase their education levels**
- ✓ **Provides English language instruction for parents (delete if not the case)**
- ✓ **Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development**
- ✓ **Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education**



ESL students in adult education class.

Saluda County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our family literacy program families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... didn’t graduate high school
- 100% ... enrolled in our program with less than an eighth grade education

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2017-18

Adults Served	6
Children Served	6
Adult Education Hours Offered	338
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered	338
Parenting Education Hours Offered	8
Number of adults that increased their BestPlus Scores	6

This year, our Family Literacy program:

- ✓ **100% ESL students achieved gains in their English language skills (pre to post BestPlus)**
- ✓ **1/3 of children in Family Literacy Program received services from BabyNet**
- ✓ **100% of children in Family Literacy Program received services from Saluda Schools Early Head Start**
- ✓ **Provided nutritional services to families**

Thank you to our Family Literacy partners!

- South Carolina State Department of Education
- Saluda County School Adult Education
- Saluda Schools Early Head Start
- Clemson Extension Services
- DHEC Cooking Matters

Evidence of Effectiveness:

The Family Literacy components of Triple P and early childhood education meet 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	11
Number of TA Visits Provided	51
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	43

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
ABC Academy, infant room	From 5.06 to 5.50
ABC Academy, 2-year old room	From 4.09 to 5.81

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

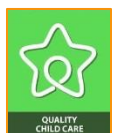
- ✓ Improved quality based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 61.25 hours of technical assistance to child care providers, contributing to the professional growth of 11 child care teachers and directors.
- ✓ Provided \$2,000 in materials grants to participating child care providers.
- ✓ Monitored implementation of best practices in the classroom through individualized Quality Improvement Plans for each teacher.

Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- School Discount Supply
- ABC Academy
- Senator Floyd Nicholson

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



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, growth and development, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

**Training Sponsored by
Saluda First Steps, 2017-18**

Topic:
 Introduction to ITERS-3 and ECERS-3
 Guided Play
 Transition Magician
 Quality Never Goes Out of Style
 Creating Monthly Plans
 Impact of Early Childhood Mental Health
 Moral Development of Young Children



Participants enjoying the "Guided Play" workshop.

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	47
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	30
Number of Training Sessions Offered	4

This year, our Training program provided:


- ✓ 47 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 8 providers and 157 children
- ✓ 22 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements

Thank you to our Training partners!

- Edgefield County First Steps
- Aiken County First Steps
- Susan Graham
- Jenn Adams

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development 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	29
Families Served	28
Home/School Visits	162

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



CTK celebration with students, parents, and teachers.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of parents were satisfied with the CTK program.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 33.33% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in emotional and social development, language and literacy development, and mathematical thinking during the 2017-18 school year.
- ✓ 100% of CTK teachers felt all the CTK goals were met or exceeded: increasing family awareness of Kindergarten expectations, ensuring a smooth transition into the school environment, creating a positive relationship between the family and the child's school.

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Saluda County School District
 Kaplan Early Learning Company

Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

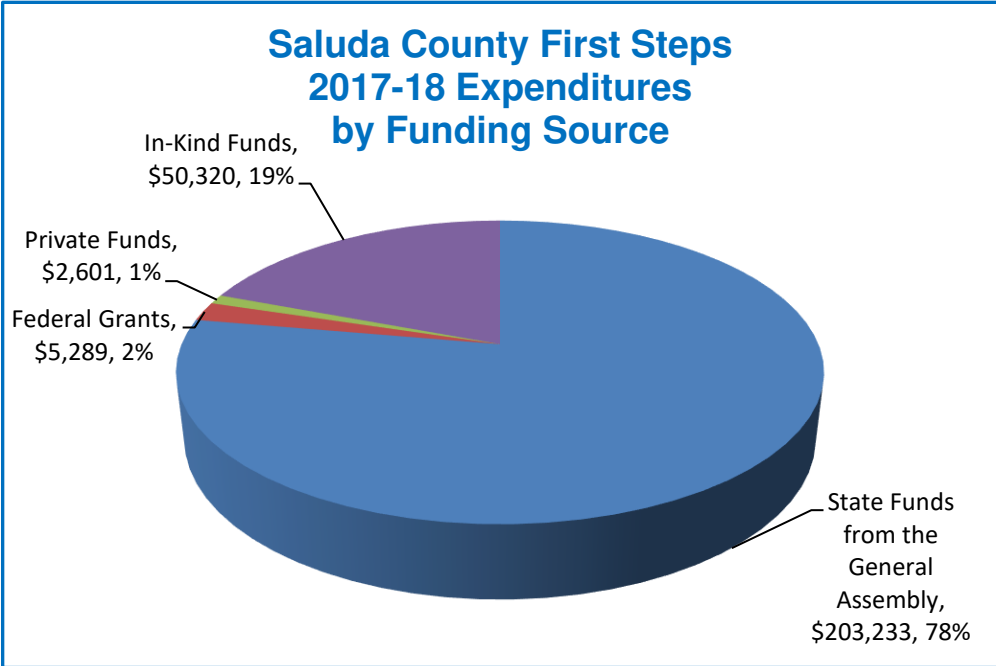


Evidence of Effectiveness:

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: \$261,443

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 29%

*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 Head Start	\$43,022	\$5,289	\$0	\$102	\$48,412	19%
Parent Training	\$14,221	\$0	\$0	\$666	\$14,887	6%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$14,290	\$0	\$0	\$1,583	\$15,873	6%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$22,447	\$0	\$0	\$2,844	\$25,291	10%
Child Care Training	\$29,872	\$0	\$1,656	\$680	\$32,208	12%
Family Literacy	\$17,773	\$0	\$0	\$37,513	\$55,286	21%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,932	\$21,932	8%
Child Care Scholarships	\$3,198	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,198	1%
Program Support	\$24,023	\$0	\$945	\$0	\$24,968	10%
Administrative Support	\$19,388	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19,388	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$203,233	\$5,289	\$2,601	\$50,320	\$261,443	

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

Since inception, Salua County First Steps has leveraged \$1,662,943 from sources outside of state government. That's 48 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

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

Child Care Career and Development: \$2,000

Midlands Gives: \$660

In-Kind Support

Saluda County School District

Kaplan Early Learning Company

Discount School Supply

Scholastic

Saluda County Administration

ABC Academy

Office Depot



Enjoying a SpringFest 2018 activity.

How your support helps children in Saluda County:

- ✓ CCCCD awarded a \$2,000 grant which was used to purchase services of high-quality presenters and materials to enhance professional training opportunities for our child care centers.
- ✓ A donation of \$100 would help to purchase a toolkit full of supplies and books for a child in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.
- ✓ A donation of \$200 would help cover the cost of one child to participate in the Countdown to Kindergarten Program.

HOW TO GIVE: To make a donation, please make check out to Saluda County First Steps. Mail to:

Saluda County First Steps
Attn: Deborah Padgett
103 S Rudolph Street
Saluda, SC 29138

Save the Date!

December 7, 2018 – 2018 Chairmen's Summit on Early Childhood. Will be held in Columbia, SC.

April 2019 – Week of the Young Child Celebration

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

Community Impact

ITERS-3 Strengthens Infant and Toddler Programs

First Steps’ Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) strategies are intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided young children. As part of that effort, Kim Chariker, Director, Saluda Schools Early Head Start, and Dakota Chariker, Director, ABC Academy, completed ITERS-3 training at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute in Chapel Hill, North Carolina during the 2017-2018 program year.

The learning process for young children is an all-day journey from entering the child care center, to handwashing, playing in centers, lunch, and everything else that happens during the day. ITERS-3 focuses on the full range of needs of infants and toddlers and provides a framework for improving quality, and is suitable for use in inclusive and culturally diverse programs.



Kim Chariker, Debbie Cryer (Environmental Rating Scales co-author) , Dakota Chariker

When asked how the ITERS-3 training experience helped their centers, Dakota replied, “After returning from training, I observed every classroom in my center. I then met with the teachers to discuss my observation and discuss ways to improve.” Kim stated, “I used ITERS-3 to guide the set up of our classrooms.”

Both center directors recognize that quality child care builds a strong foundation for the school experience. Play really is reading, science, and math. Strong teacher interactions encourage the learning process. ITERS-3 helped both directors become observers of the interactions and opportunities in their centers.



Oh! The Places You’ll Go!

ITERS-3 assessment training has opened the door to provide staff with a quality outlook – encouraging staff to make every opportunity a teachable moment.

---Kim Chariker

ITERS-3 allowed me to bring back knowledge for my staff and for me, as director, to be a better leader and teacher.

---Dakota Chariker

First Steps Partnership Board

Saluda County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Allyson Bartley, Chair	Senior Tax Manager, Elliott Davis, LLC	Faith
Hugh Gray, Vice Chair	Director, Westview Behavioral Health Services	Non-Profit
Kim Chariker, Secretary	Director, Saluda Schools Early Head Start	Agency Representative
Dr. Abbey Duggins	Director, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, Saluda Schools	Parent
Angela Cunningham	Children's Services, Saluda County Library	Agency Representative
Becky McDowell	Director, Saluda County Department of Social Services	Agency Representative
Christy Marshall	Teacher, Saluda Schools Early Head Start	Child Care
Dakota Chariker	Director, ABC Academy	Child Care
Dr. Harvey Livingston	Superintendent, Saluda Schools	School District
Gwen Shealy	Board Member, Saluda County Council	Local Government
Jimmy Crawford	Director, Saluda County Adult Education	Family Education
Lynn Padgett	Special Needs, Saluda High School	Parent/Grandparent
Madora Stanfield	Administrative Services, Saluda County DHEC	Agency Representative
Perrin Bryan	Case Manager Supervisor, Saluda County DSS	Family Education
Tracey Caughman	Mental Health Counselor, Westview Behavioral Health	Mental Health Services

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 Saluda County First Steps:
FaceBook: Saluda County First Steps



[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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