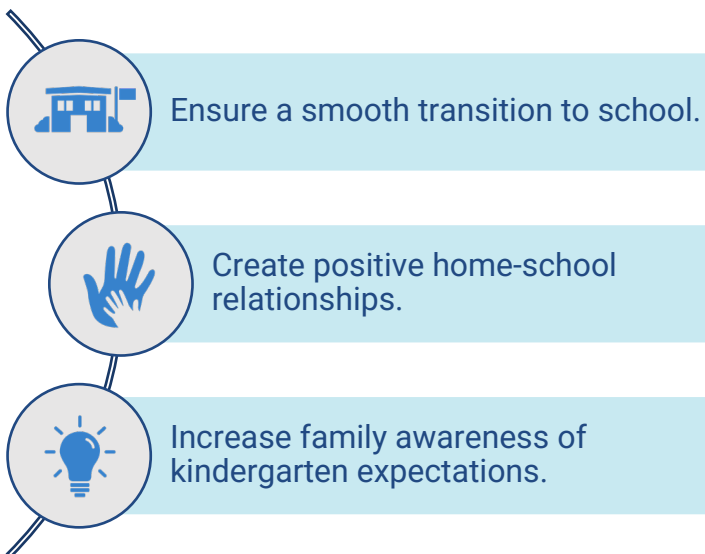


Families would highly recommend Countdown to Kindergarten!

Countdown to Kindergarten supports strong school transitions by connecting families, schools, and communities.

Countdown to Kindergarten is a summer school transition strategy designed to support smooth transitions into kindergarten by connecting rising kindergartners, their families, and their teachers in a series of six sessions during the summer. Countdown teachers complete six, one-hour sessions with each child's family covering topics such as language and literacy, math, and science. Children and families visit their kindergarten classroom during their final visit with their teacher.

Countdown to Kindergarten has three goals:



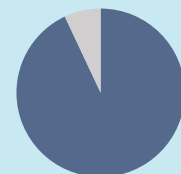
Developed by South Carolina First Steps in 2003, Countdown to Kindergarten is supporting children and families during a critical window of child development.

Families enrolled in Countdown to Kindergarten share feedback on their experience in the program.

South Carolina First Steps prioritizes and values listening and responding to feedback from families participating in programs offered by their First Steps local partnership. Each year, South Carolina First Steps administers a parent satisfaction survey to gather feedback from families about their experience participating in a Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) program in their community. Feedback from this survey is used to inform changes that improve the quality of program delivery and the experience of participating families.

Over 1,700 families were enrolled in Countdown to Kindergarten during summer 2024 and were invited to complete a survey. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Most families (89%) completed the survey in English. There were 983 responses to the survey (response rate: 56%).

93% of families would highly recommend Countdown to Kindergarten to a friend or family member.



Most survey respondents say the Countdown to Kindergarten program has met their needs for preparing their child's transition to kindergarten very or extremely well.



83%

are more confident about their child starting kindergarten.



82%

are better prepared to support their child with kindergarten academic skills.



66%

know their child's kindergarten teacher better.

Countdown to Kindergarten supports children's academic and social development.

Because of their participation in Countdown to Kindergarten,

82%

of survey respondents' children are more confident about starting kindergarten.

79%

of survey respondents' children are better prepared with kindergarten academic skills.

69%

of survey respondents' children are better prepared with kindergarten behavior expectations.

Countdown to Kindergarten is good at preparing children for school and building relationships between parents and teachers.

"It's getting your child ready to go to kindergarten and get to know the teacher. Also it lets the teacher know how much the child knows before the first day of school."

Parent/Caregiver,
Newberry County



98%

of survey respondents said their Countdown teacher always treated them with respect.

"I loved this idea. I know it made my child comfortable and she didn't seem to have any fear awaiting for school to start. I say it's the greatest idea I have seen for kindergarten."

Parent/Caregiver,
Lancaster County

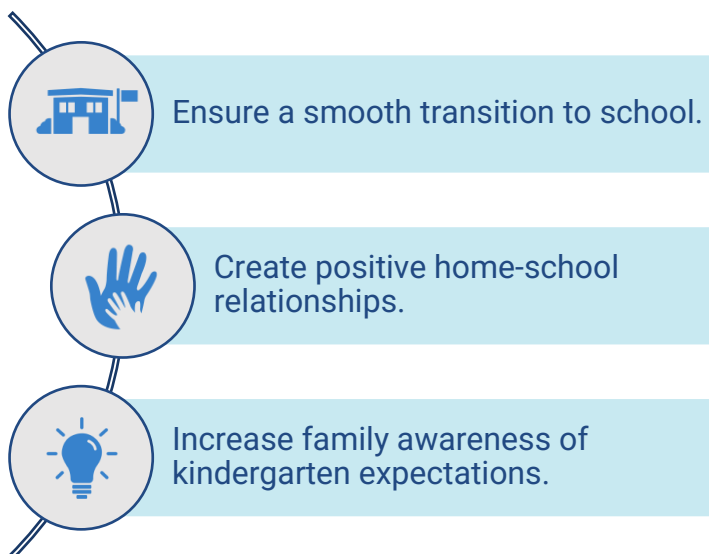
For more information, visit countdownsc.org

Families would highly recommend Countdown to 4K!

Countdown to 4K supports strong school transitions by connecting families, schools, and communities.

Countdown to 4K is a summer school transition strategy designed to support smooth transitions into 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) by connecting rising 4K students, their families, and their teachers in a series of six sessions during the summer. Countdown teachers complete six, one-hour sessions with each child's family covering topics such as language and literacy, pre-writing skills, and number recognition. Children and families visit their 4K classroom during their final visit with their teacher.

Countdown to 4K three goals:



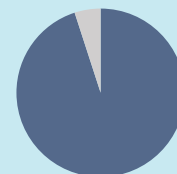
Developed by South Carolina First Steps in 2022, Countdown to 4K supports children and families during a critical window of child development.

Families enrolled in Countdown to 4K share feedback on their experience in the program.

South Carolina First Steps prioritizes and values listening and responding to feedback from families participating in programs offered by their First Steps local partnership. Each year, South Carolina First Steps administers a parent satisfaction survey to gather feedback from families about their experience participating in a Countdown to 4K (CT4K) program in their community. Feedback from this survey is used to inform changes that improve the quality of program delivery and the experience of participating families.

Nearly 1,000 families were enrolled in Countdown to 4K during summer 2024 and were invited to complete a survey. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Most families (96%) completed the survey in English. There were 510 responses to the survey (response rate: 51%).

95% of survey respondents would highly recommend Countdown to 4K to a friend or family member.



Most survey respondents say the Countdown to 4K program has met their needs for preparing their child's transition to 4K very or extremely well.



91%

are better prepared to support their child with skills needed for success in 4K.



87%

are more confident about their child starting 4K.



67%

know their child's 4K teacher better.

Countdown to 4K supports children's academic and social development.

Because of their participation in Countdown to 4K,

86%

of survey respondents' children are better prepared with skills needed for success in 4K.

83%

of survey respondents' children are more confident about starting 4K.

76%

of survey respondents' children are better prepared with 4K behavior expectations.

Countdown to 4K is good at preparing children for school and building relationships between parents and teachers.

"I like how my child's teacher was able to connect with her on a one on one basis and gave the opportunity for my daughter to get comfortable with her teacher before school even started. It made her first few days at school a lot easier on all of us."

Parent/Caregiver,
Pickens County



98%

of survey respondents said their Countdown to 4K teacher always treated them with respect.

"The Countdown to 4K program is an excellent program that allows 4K students to learn, prepare and practice for the upcoming school year! It's a good way to meet and establish a relationship with the parents, students, and teacher and also making sure the child is comfortable."

Parent/Caregiver,
Newberry County