



THE NEED

IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY:

1,558

children under age 5

64%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

60%

of kindergartners are considered “not ready” for school

OUR MISSION

To collaborate with other entities, First Steps helps Williamsburg County families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

OUR IMPACT

3,767

number of children and adults served by Williamsburg County First Steps in 2018-2019

JOIN US

We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

500 North Academy St., Kingstree, SC 29556 | 843-355-1031 | scfirststeps.org/williamsburg

Data provided by:

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Felicia C. Patrick

Executive Director
Williamsburg County First Steps

Williamsburg County Partnership (WCFSP) Board's mission, through collaboration with other entities, is to provide resources for families and caregivers to prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services. We believe every child will be prepared for success when he/she enters school.

WCFSP, in conjunction with the Legislative Delegation and Williamsburg County School District, celebrated the accomplishment of the Williamsburg County child development programs as Kindergartens in Williamsburg County was recognized as one of thirty-three districts within S.C. to meet or surpass the overall state average for Demonstrating Readiness on the 2017-2018 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. This accomplishment was recognized by the S.C. Education Oversight Committee.

WCFS Partnership Board is proud of the numerous successes of its county wide programs and is sincerely appreciative of the resources provided through its collaborative partnerships. The positive impacts on the children and families of this area can be measured through our programs which are Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) and Child Care Training and Professional Development (CCTPD).

Felicia C. Patrick

OUR GOALS

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

- Goal 1 PCHP is to increase the support given to families by expanding our partnership base, increasing our network of resources, and offer evidence-based curriculum to address skill set for parents.
- Goal 2 CTK to expand program participation to include additional schools, childcare centers and ongoing support to CTK teachers throughout the school year.
- Goal 3 DPIL to broaden our resource base in an effort to raise community program awareness and increase the number of children being served.
- Goal 4 CCTPD to access our current training practices in an effort to find a more effective methodology for providing high quality professional development experiences for child care center professionals.

The success of our Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership is the results of competent staff members, partnerships with other entities (private, public, and religious), our elected officials (state and local), concerned community and caring parents who have embraced the same vision: Every South Carolina child will be prepared for success in school.

DR. JANICE M. GAMBLE, WCFS BOARD CHAIR



IMAGINATION LIBRARY



an evidence-based program

As the local affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income.

Children enrolled in our Imagination Library program receive one book per month by mail. Each title is selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts, who are responsible for choosing books that meet the age-specific developmental needs of young children.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

512

children served

6,149

books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in Williamsburg County because Williamsburg County First Steps secures the funds to cover the cost of books and shipping fees.

Join us by sponsoring a child for just \$30 a year.





COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

6

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

36

children served

216

total home and school
visits



Countdown to Kindergarten students at Greeleyville Elementary were greeted by their new principal, Mrs. Berlinda Mack. During their visit to the school, students were introduced to their kindergarten classroom and enjoyed a tour of their new school.





CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-based program

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

- *Toddler Diaper Derby Time-Part 1
- *Developing Resilience in Young Children
- *Fun with Food: Celebrations and Snacks
- *No! No! No! Biting: Supporting Teachers When a Child Bites
- *Motivating Your Staff
- *Early Learning Standards Overview 2018
- *Approaches to Play & Learning
- *Regulations, Regulations, Regulations: What's New

- *Effective Communication with Parents
- *Turning up Learning for Young Children
- *Explore the Outdoors- Science and Math
- *Physical Activity-Physical Games for Young Children
- *The Magic of Literacy- Summer of Adventure
- *Infant & Child CPR
- *First Aid
- *Blood Borne Pathogens

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

350

total training attendance

133

child care teachers and
directors served

44

number of training
sessions offered



During the Week of the Young Child, child care providers attended a conference hosted by Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SCECA). Participants attended a variety of sessions and keynote speakers to receive mandated DSS and SC-CCCCD required training hours.

4K

FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-based program

South Carolina First Steps provides eligible children with free enrollment in full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 200 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality child care across the state.



ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must:

- ✓ Be 4 years old on or before September 1
- ✓ Qualify for Medicaid or a free or reduced-price lunch program
- ✓ Live in one of 64 qualifying school districts

FIRST STEPS 4K IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY 2018-2019

23

children enrolled

4

participating classrooms

4K NEWS

In fiscal year 2019-2020, South Carolina First Steps is launching a pilot program to expand 4K enrollment within underserved communities. Age- and income-eligible children residing in any SC school district may qualify for a slot in a participating center that also serves students from eligible districts.





PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Parent Child Home is an home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PCH services include:

1. **Personal Visits** from an Early Learning Specialist at least six times monthly
2. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
3. **Service** to the most at-risk children and their families
4. **Connections** to outside resources that families may need to succeed

PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

40

families served

1,757

total home visits



Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District Parent-Child Home Program traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC to Ripley's Aquarium. Parents and children were given the opportunity to see live animals up close. Students experienced the thrill of holding and touching horseshoe crabs and jellyfish. Students found themselves immersed in a watery world of sharks, rays, colorful tropical fish and incredible hands-on learning experiences.



**PARENT-CHILD
HOME PROGRAM**



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Williamsburg County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Williamsburg County begin school ready to succeed. We

serve as a:

LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and
their families to services

CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective
and comprehensive early childhood system

CHAMPION

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

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

598

families served

1,646

materials distributed

“ First Steps plays a vital role in the community in Williamsburg County by providing the tools and skills to enable preschool children to be prepared for beginning their journey into formal education.

REV. KAREN STARR, WCFS VICE CHAIR ”



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

Williamsburg County School District Empl.: \$259.34	Nan Ya Plastics Corporation, Amer.: \$250
Williamsburg County Treasurer: \$500	Farmers Telephone Cooperative (FTC): \$500
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church: \$131.46	Mishoe Oil Company: \$100
Greater St. Mark AME Church: \$150	Williamsburg County Development Board: \$200
Hemingway Elem. School: \$545	ABC Office Supply, LLC: \$140
Bethel United Methodist Church: \$100	Kingstree Family Dentistry: \$20
Kingstree United Methodist Church: \$190	Williamsburg County Council: \$1,100
Williamsburg Branch NAACP 5558: \$100	Representative Cezar McKnight: \$100
St. Luke United Methodist Church: \$100	Charyl Epps-Normoo: \$50
New Mt. Carmel AME Church: \$50	Teresa Wilson: \$50
Williamsburg County First Steps Board	Jim Clyburn: \$250
Members: \$1,006.75	Ronnie A. Sabb: \$300
Asbury United Methodist Church: \$41	Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Assoc.: \$60
Cedar Swamp Methodist Church: \$100	Iota Mu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.: \$100
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church: \$100	
Union Baptist Church: \$150	
Redmond-Richardson Funeral Home, Inc.: \$275	

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Williamsburg County School District: \$55,828.59

Williamsburg Technical College: \$5,814.76

JOIN US

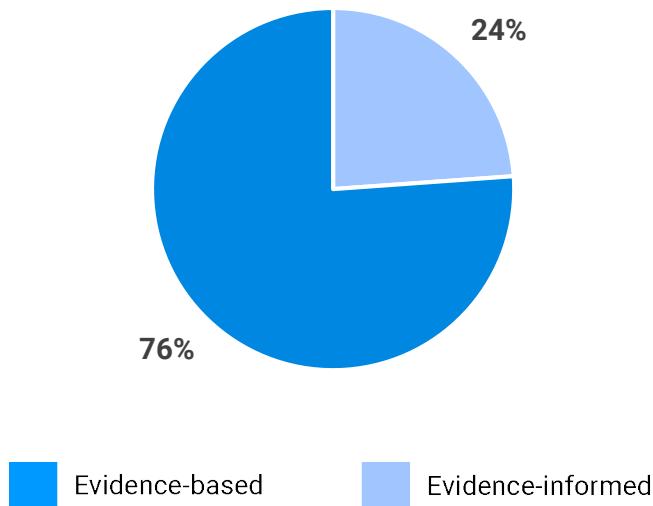
Edit this message for your partnership. Example: For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at scfirststeps.org/williamsburg



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Williamsburg County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,283,459** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.37** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Child Care Training & Professional Dev.	\$55,835	\$0	\$5,005	\$1,312	\$62,152
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$23,507	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,507
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	\$9,305	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$12,305
Parent-Child Home Program (Public)	\$22,729	\$0	\$0	\$49,539	\$72,268
Parent-Child Home Program (In-House)	\$76,125	\$0	\$5,000	\$2,153	\$83,278
Total Expenses	\$187,501	\$0	\$13,005	\$53,004	\$253,510



LEADERSHIP

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STAFF

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Shakira Fulton, Program Assistant

Rochelle Gamble, Lead Early Learning Specialist

Carrie White, Early Learning Specialist

Geneva Dorsey, Early Learning Specialist

Buetine Pressley, Early Learning Specialist

CONTACT US

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