



Building relationships for success!

Countdown to Kindergarten is a school transition program to prepare at-risk children for kindergarten.



The home visitation, relationship-based program is a nationally recognized model first developed by South Carolina First Steps in 2003 and has served more than 15,000 children statewide.

Each summer, new teachers are recruited, trained, and receive a small stipend for their time and travel.

In 2019, more than 200 teachers participated to serve 1,300 children across South Carolina.



During five one-hour home visits, the teacher demonstrates materials the family gets to keep. The final visit takes place at the child's new school.

Virtually all home visitors meet the program's goals to:

- Increase family awareness of kindergarten expectations
- Ensure a smooth transition to school
- Create a positive relationship with the family



"Parents are saying that the program is putting the teachers and families on the same team."

Dr. Janice Kilburn
Countdown to Kindergarten Director