

BARNWELL COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

The mission of Barnwell County First Steps is to provide high quality early education programs designed to meet the needs of the time that will ensure children in Barnwell County will arrive at first grade with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to succeed.

Vision

Children in Barnwell County will arrive at first grade with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

Values

The influence of a child's family is important for the child's overall development and well-being.

High quality childcare should be accessible to all children.

Our staff and those we work with are highly qualified and demonstrate compassion and concern for children and families.

Honesty and integrity is at the core of everything that we do.

Message from the Executive Director



Doris Mitchell
Executive Director
Barnwell County First Steps

Barnwell County First Steps and its early child care partners are serious about providing quality child care to the children and families in Barnwell County. We understand the commitment and dedication that is required to be rated as a quality child care center. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to receive quality child care, which is why Barnwell County First Steps collaborates with local and state partners to provide services for the child, the family, and the child care center staff. Barnwell County First Steps and our partners understand that the earlier a child is introduced to quality child care, the better chance the child will be successful in school and in life.

Doris Mitchell

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

1. INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By 2023, Barnwell County First Steps will be reaching 50% of children in need in our county.

2. INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY FIRST STEPS

By 2023, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from Barnwell County First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase from 12% to 15%.

3. MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By 2023, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 1% each year to 34%.

Objectives

1. CHILDREN RECEIVE HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Childcare services will increase in quality as a result of staff participating in the Quality Enhancement program and attending professional development workshops.

2. STAFF ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND MOTIVATED.

Barnwell County First Steps will recruit and retain highly qualified staff who are passionate and dedicated to providing high quality services.

3. PARENTS ARE EQUIPPED TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD(REN) AT HOME.

Parents recognize Barnwell County First Steps as the premier support system in Barnwell County for early learning and development.

4. CHILDREN WILL BE READY TO TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN.

Children participate in high quality programs that assist with transitioning from early childcare to kindergarten.

1. CHILDREN RECEIVE HIGH QUALITY CHILDCARE

STRATEGY 1.1

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, we will partner with two additional licensed childcare centers.
- By the end of FY22, we will provide coaching and mentoring to four licensed childcare centers.
- By the end of FY23, those four childcare centers will be equipped to provide continuous high-quality services in the event of a pandemic.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with South Carolina Child Care Licensing Department to identify two local Licensed and Registered Family Childcare Homes.
- We will seek additional funding—with the support of South Carolina Office of First Steps—to support serving additional childcare centers.

STRATEGY 1.2

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, we will host one early childcare conference.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with surrounding local First Steps partnerships, local school districts, and certified trainers to form a planning committee for the conference.

2. STAFF ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND MOTIVATED

STRATEGY 2.1

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, 100% of early childcare center staff with whom we partner will receive coaching and mentoring for 2 hours each month.
- By the end of FY22, at least one staff person from each center with whom we partner will enroll in the TEACH program.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with SC Endeavors to identify certified trainers to provide professional development to childcare center staff.

STRATEGY 2.2

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, we will host two job fairs for community members who are interested in employment in early childcare.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Denmark Tech, local school districts, and SC Works to help with recruitment and planning.

3. Parents are equipped to support their children at home.

STRATEGY 3.1

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, we increase the number of families served by high intensity programs from 26% to 30%.
- By the end of FY22, we will increase the number of parent education classes by 20%.
- By the end of FY23, ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) scores will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with local agencies (DHEC, pediatricians, Low Country Health, BabyNet) to provide resources for parent engagement and wrap around services.

STRATEGY 3.2

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, we will create a Parent Action Committee to plan and support family engagement.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Denmark Tech, local school districts, and local childcare centers to help with recruitment and planning.

4. Children will be ready to transition to kindergarten.

STRATEGY 4.1

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, we will increase student enrollment in Countdown to Kindergarten by 15%.
- By the end of FY22, 100% of partnering childcare centers will use the Creative Curriculum in all classrooms.
- By the end of FY23, we will have a better understanding of what children need by increasing participation in parent surveys by 20%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with local school districts, Head Start, and Early Head Start to provide a networking opportunity for teachers and directors.
- We will partner with local kindergarten teachers to provide opportunities for parents to visit the kindergarten classroom.

STRATEGY 4.2

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, our county will have a functioning Kindergarten Transition Committee focused on the needs of schools and families.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Denmark Tech, local school districts, and local childcare centers to help with planning.