



SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS RISK FACTORS

- A preschool-aged child has been abused
- A preschool-aged child has been neglected
- A preschool-aged child has been placed in foster care
- Eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, e.g. Food Stamps) or Free School Lunches (130% of federal poverty level or below – with first priority given to TANF-eligible clients whose annual family income levels fall at 50% of federal poverty level or below)
- Eligibility for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Parts B (Preschool Special Education, ages 3-5) or C (BabyNet, ages 0-3)
- A preschool aged child with a developmental delay as documented by a physician or standardized assessment (not screening tool)
- Teenage mother/primary caregiver at or under the age of 20 (at the time of the focus child's birth)
- Low maternal/primary caregiver education (less than high school graduation at the time of focus child's birth)
- A preschool-aged child has been exposed to the substance abuse of a caregiver
- A preschool-aged child has been exposed to parental/caregiver depression
- A preschool-aged child has been exposed to parental/caregiver mental illness
- A preschool-aged child has been exposed to parental/caregiver intellectual disability
- A preschool-aged child has been exposed to domestic violence within the home
- Low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs.) in association with serious medical complications.
- English is not the primary language spoken in the home.
- Single parent household and has need of other services
- Transient/numerous family relocations and/or homeless
- Incarcerated Parent(s) (parent(s) is incarcerated in federal or state prison or local jail or was released from incarceration within the past year)
- Death in the Immediate Family (death of a parent/caregiver or sibling)
- Military Deployment (Parent/guardian is currently deployed or is within 2 years of returning from a deployment as an active duty member of the armed forces. Deployment is defined as any current or past event or activity that relates to duty in the armed forces that involves an operation, location, command or duty that is different from his/her normal duty assignment.)
- Recent Immigrant or Refugee Family - One or both parents are foreign-born and entered the country within the past 5 years.

The following condition, while not considered part of SC First Steps' targeting criteria, is an additional characteristic that can put children at potentially higher risk for early school failure.

Additional high-risk characteristic tracked by First Steps-funded programs:

- Child was removed for behavioral reasons from one or more child care, Head Start or preschool setting.