



OUR MISSION

# Getting children ready for school.

South Carolina First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



LOCAL FIRST STEPS PARTNERSHIPS



4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

OUR 2019-20 IMPACT

**30,579**

CHILDREN SERVED DIRECTLY

**40,000**

CHILDREN REACHED IN CLASSROOMS

IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**342,999**

CHILDREN 0-5

**164,226 | 48%**

LIVE IN POVERTY OR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

**90%**

OF BRAIN ARCHITECTURE IS BUILT BY

**AGE 5**

BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

**“First Steps local partnership services are closing the gap for children in poverty.”**

A 2019 study by the Institute for Families in Society found that children who receive First Steps services are:



**74% more likely**

to score Demonstrating Readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment



**34% less likely**

to be chronically absent in kindergarten