



Parents as Teachers

**Child Care Quality
Enhancement**

Early Identification & Referral

Annual Report

2015-16



OUR VISION:

**Every South Carolina child
will arrive at kindergarten
ready to succeed.**

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Kershaw County
Children Under Five	289,990	3,769
Children In Poverty	26.4%	25.3%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	21.0%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	15.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,482,631** from sources outside state government. That's **\$.44** cents for every dollar received.
- **210 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 20 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 139 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops**.
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 399**

Kershaw County First Steps

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Board Chair
 Stephen Wilson

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Kershaw County First Steps
Kimberley Edmond-Jordan
Executive Director

We want to thank you for your support of Kershaw County First Steps and all that we are attempting to do for our children and their families. We feel that the enclosed Annual Report for the past year is a valuable tool to share with you.

We bring together all the people involved in a young child's early years - families, health professionals, early childhood professionals, caregivers, and many others - to ensure every child has all that's needed for a successful start.

We received financial and other resources from various sources and continued to be good stewards of the money entrusted to us. We were provided with \$179,344 in South Carolina state funds. Additionally, we raised \$16,150 in grants and gifts to further our mission. We were audited by an independent auditor for the previous fiscal year, and we received a "clean bill" of fiscal health, demonstrating the effective and closely monitored use of funds.

Our outreach events continue to be a valuable tool for sharing these programs with the Kershaw County community, while encouraging participation and support.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Quality Enhancement
 Early Identification & Referral

State Programs

BabyNet
 First Steps 4k

What We Do

Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With **measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas**, First Steps is getting results.



Healthy Start

We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.



Quality Childcare

Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child's development and success in school.



Family Strengthening

Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps' intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at "low" levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.



Early Education

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.



Early Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.



School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

**Based on the needs of our community, Kershaw County First Steps focuses its investments in....
Early Intervention, Family Strengthening and Quality Child care**

Early Identification and Referral

Identifying and referring children with possible developmental delays can help assure school readiness.

Program Description

First Steps' Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development and coordinates public awareness for BabyNet services, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children

EI&R services include:

1. **Screenings** (developmental, vision, hearing) for children ages birth to 5 years with suspected delays in development
2. **Referrals**, based up the screening results, to appropriate community resources. This could include the local BabyNet System Point of Entry Office, the local school district, and/or support services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and programs in libraries and other community resources.
3. **Parent information** including strategies to monitor growth and development.

Our EI&R program:

- ✓ Provides early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Promotes services and activities that promote child development
- ✓ Increases children's school readiness and school success

Kershaw County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our EI&R families:

- 25.8% ... live in poverty
- 15.3% ... didn't graduate high school
- 30.6% ... were teen parents

"Kershaw County First Steps screened my child, and I found out he needed speech"

Mary Kirkland



EI&R by the Numbers 2015-16

Children Served	94
Materials Distributed	297
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	13

This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- ✓ Screened 53 children for hearing
- ✓ Screened 94 children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred 75 families to community resources after screening indicated need

Thank you to our partners!

Kershaw County Head Start
 Kershaw County School District

Kershaw County First Steps
 P.O. Box 669 Camden, SC 29021
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Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Kershaw County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

25.8% ... live in poverty
15.3% ... didn't graduate from high school
30.6% ... were teen parents



I can teach my child how to succeed

Ms. Jones

PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	20	
Children Served	23	
Total Home Visits	206	
Hours Spent Serving Families	209.52	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.22	3.65

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 10.3 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 7 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Made 17 connections for families to services such as Library Resources, Adult Education, Family Events, and Special Education

Thank you to our partners!

Kershaw County Library
Lee County First Steps
Lil Angels Daycare

Kershaw County First Steps

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Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2015-16

Child Care Providers Served	5
Number of TA Visits Provided	119
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	282

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2015-16!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Lil Angels Day Care, 2 yr old room	From 3.72 to 3.91
Bethesda School, 2 yr old room	From 5.14 to 5.28
ATEC CDC, 2-4-yr-old room	From 4.35 to 4.82
Stephanie's Preschool Blessing, 3-yr-old room	From 2.25 to 2.96

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

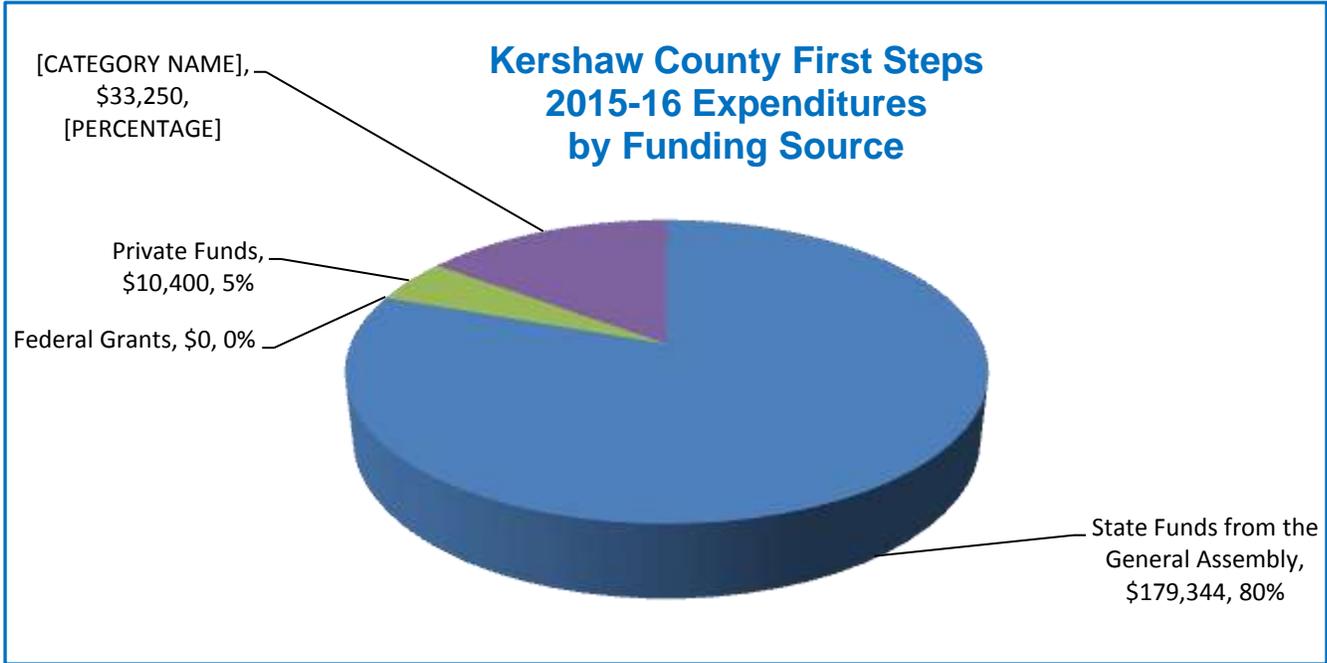
- ✓ Provided 139 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ 90% of the participating teachers have more than 20 hours of early childhood coursework
- ✓ The retention rate for employment of participating teachers is 85%

Thank you to our partners!

Kershaw County Library
 United Way of Kershaw County

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Financial Impact



Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$222,995

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 24%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$39,608	\$0	\$2,663	\$0	\$42,271	19%
Early Identification Referral	\$38,721	\$0	\$0	\$33,250	\$71,971	32%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$39,572	\$0	\$7,737	\$0	\$47,309	21%
Program Support	\$39,132	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$39,132	18%
Administrative Support	\$22,310	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,310	10%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$179,344	\$0	\$10,400	\$33,250	\$222,995	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged \$1,482,631 from sources outside of state government. That's 44 cents for every state dollar.

Read to Your Children

Parents As Teachers

Patrice Jones has participated in the Parents As Teachers Program for 4 years, she learned literacy strategies that helped her to build her literacy skills and to work with her children. In addition to helping her daughter, Patrice says that Kershaw County First Steps helped her find the resources she needed to support her whole family.



Community Partners

Kershaw County First Steps is an active community partner dedicated to improving the lives of Kershaw County's youngest citizens. We collaborate with numerous local agencies through our planning committees, board membership and funding systems. Additionally, we are active partners in the United Way of Kershaw County, the IMPACT community collaboration, and Regional collaborations. Through these collaborations we have helped to build community capacity and make efficient use of existing resources.



Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$179,344
(through South Carolina First Steps)

United Way of Kershaw: \$8,000

SC Center for Child Care Career Development:
 \$2,000

In-Kind Support

Kershaw Department of Social Services
 Kershaw Child Care Centers

Support Kershaw County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.

BEE (Books Enrich Everyone) Program

Early Literacy Program

The BEE Program is a collaborative effort of Kershaw County First Steps Board of Directors and the United Way of Kershaw County. This project seeks to address a gap in the continuum of early literacy services by reaching out to families with children two to four years old with early literacy needs. Kershaw County First Steps host monthly literacy camps at local child care centers, where volunteer literacy coaches read and distribute books with literacy tip sheets to children and caregivers; and encourage implementation of literacy techniques. 213 children received monthly books and a pre/post early literacy screening during 2015-2016.



Kershaw County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Charlene Hayward, Chair	Family Service Specialist	Head Start Representative
Leslie Williams, Vice Chair	Child Care Director	Child Care
Jeanne W. Hanna	KC DSS Director	DSS Representative
Cynthia Bolin	Elementary Teacher	Pre-K/Primary Educator
Veronica Lewis	Program Manager	Disabilities and Special Needs
Pam Whitehead	Early Childhood Coordinator	School District
Shelia Williams	Accountant	Business
Jennifer Kelly	Outreach Librarian	Library Representative
Margaret Lawhorn	Program Manager	Nonprofit
Marion Kelly	Owner	Business
Kathy Sanders	Program Manager	DHHC

The Goals of First Steps

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



BabyNet

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Kershaw County:
(803) 774-8280

<http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/>