



# Jasper County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report*

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Beatrice Jones  
**Executive Director:**  
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## Summary

**Numbers Served:**

664 children; 12 child care facilities, with 225 children total at those facilities; 80 health assessments and screenings; 36 home visits; 185 staff trained; 20 4-K slots; and 2,793 books distributed.

**Total Budget:**

\$267,532 (includes all funding sources)

### Jasper County First Steps School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	1,660 or 8%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	80%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	19,338
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	27%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	21%
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Reading **	39%
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Math**	46%
Low Birth Weight Infants	12%
Births to Mothers with Less than High School Education	29%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	24%

*Note: Data is for 2003 except where noted (\*2005, \*\*2004, \*\*\*1999).*

**Profile Comments:** *In FY6, the state of affairs in Jasper County indicated that it had its fair share of school readiness risk factors. In the past four years, Jasper County has also been plagued with the public knowledge that Jasper County schools have received failing marks in academics, and in achieving the status of accountability that the South Carolina State Department of Education dictates. Another fact that cannot be ignored is the rapid increase of the Hispanic population. The number of Hispanic first graders is growing by 42% a year; 70% of the Hispanic children taking the CSAB in 2000 tested not ready for school. These facts have all shaped the county and created a desperate need for the programs that were selected. To address county's needs, the parents concerns of the educators, and the critical issue of ensuring that children are ready for school; the Jasper County First Steps Board selected: quality early education and childcare, extended full day ESL Pre-K, and early literacy as top priorities in Jasper County. We recognize the importance of what First Steps brings to our community, and feel our resources will be best utilized in those selected areas.*

## SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

### Early Education

**Statewide Goal** – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will leverage state, local and private resources to increase the quality of, and number of children participating in, developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten programs in both the public and private sectors. Particular emphasis will be placed on *fidelity* to research-based instructional models and *targeting* of students at-risk of early school failure.

***FY 2006 Results:***

**Partnership Goal** – Jasper County First Steps partnership will decrease the number of children waiting to be served in 4-K programs, as well as increase the English speaking skills of 20 Hispanic children entering the school district program by providing a 4-K ESL class.

- *At the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year, there were 6 children waiting to be served in the public 4-K program in Jasper County.*
- *The number of Hispanic first graders is growing by 42% each year.*
- *70% of the Hispanic children taking the CSAB in 2000 tested not ready for school.*
- *All 20 students participating in this class met the criteria of compounded school readiness risk factors (Dial 3 scores in the bottom 25%, free and reduced lunch status, parent's education, etc.)*
- *The funded classroom met the SC Dept. of Social Services Licensing requirements and both the teacher and assistant completed the High/Scope Curriculum training.*
- *Families served reported an average of 4.5% satisfaction rate with this program (based on a 1 [poor] to 5 [excellent] point scale).*

### Family Strengthening

**Statewide Goal** – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will work collaboratively with its agency partners, the faith community and private sector to support parents and families in their own efforts to maximize the school readiness, well-being and long-term academic success of the state's young children.

***FY 2006 Results:***

**Partnership Goal** – Jasper County First Steps Partnership provides Dollywood Imagination Library to Jasper County families with the goal of increasing literacy awareness and promoting positive parent and child interaction.

- *290 children were served during FY06. A total of 2,793 books were distributed to participants.*
- *Pre-surveys showed that over 50% of the families served had  $\leq 15$  books in their homes at the time of registration.*
- *Post surveys of children exiting the program showed that the amount of time parents spent reading to their children increased by as much as 4 times a week.*

### Child Care

**Statewide Goal** – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes quality childcare as a research-based determinant of school readiness. As such, First Steps will collaborate with parents, the childcare community and its agency and community partners to maximize childcare quality throughout the state. Particular emphasis will be placed on assisting parents in their efforts to identify

those settings most likely to maximize developmental outcomes, and assisting providers in their own efforts to maximize the learning environments they provide for young children.

***FY 2006 Results:***

**Partnership Goal** – – Jasper County First Steps Partnership’s goal is to improve the quality of childcare in Jasper County by offering enhancement grants, technical assistance, and training to childcare providers.

- *Quality Enhancement grants were given to 12 childcare providers serving 225 children*
- *One registered childcare provider began the process of becoming ABC Enhanced during FY06.*
- *Free childcare training classes were offered in Jasper County providing 55 DSS and ABC training hours. A certified childcare trainer provided all trainings.*
- *One childcare center director received an extensive 8-day training in ITERS and ECERS-R.*
- *Free registration was offered to participating providers for childcare classes in the surrounding counties.*
- *Technical Assistance was provided to all participating providers by the First Steps staff. Intensive technical assistance will continue with each of these providers.*

**School Transition**

**Statewide Goal** – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes school entry as a pivotal transition point in each child’s educational career. In an effort to ensure strong collaborative relationships between the state’s families and schools, the initiative will develop strategies to maximize parents’ understandings of state and local expectations and ensure a smooth and beneficial school transition for each child.

**Partnership Goal** – Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 16 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

***FY 2006 Results:***

- *16 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2005.*
  - *94 percent of the children received five or more home visits.*
- *32 percent of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor’s kindergarten class.*
- *87.5 percent of the children qualified for free lunch.*
- *12.5 percent of the children qualified for reduced lunch.*
- *Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including:*
  - *A 58% improvement in families drawing, painting, or doing other crafts with their children*
  - *A 46% improvement in families visiting the library with their children.*
  - *A 43% improvement in families reading to their children.*

**SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2006-2007**

*The Jasper County First Steps Partnership Board funded programs based on the Needs and Resources Assessment. We were able to determine that our main focus should remain on childcare. We will work diligently to provide extensive technical assistance, training, and funds to local childcare providers to improve their facilities and enhance their quality of service. In turn, they will be better prepared to help us get Jasper County’s children ready for school. In FY07, we will work with fewer providers; we believe this approach will net more sustained quality improvements.*

*In FY07, we will continue work to integrate the Dollywood Imagination Library into all of our childcare facilities to ensure that all children receiving childcare in a First Steps funded facility will have access to free books. We will work with the new hospital, local businesses, agencies, and the faith community to reach more of the children in Jasper County. We intend to increase our enrollment by at least 25% during FY07.*

*Our English as a Second Language class has made significant strides towards improving education for Hispanic children in our community. However, Jasper County School District will take over funding of this class in FY07 and First Steps will look for a new strategy to serve our community's at risk children. Jasper County First Steps board is currently considering using these funds for a parenting strategy. We are so excited that together with other agencies in our community we are able to continue to offer all of our current programs and start a new one.*

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

D O L L A R S (budget only)							
State Appropriation	State- Private	In-kind	Local- Private	Lottery Appropriation	Federal	EIA Appropriation	TOTAL
\$162,475	\$4,803	\$26,697	\$38,853	\$1,931	\$	\$32,773	<b>\$267,532</b>

*NOTE: The above State Appropriation amount leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.*

READINESS STRATEGIES	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	DIFFERENCE
Imagination Library	\$10,600	\$6,346	\$4,254
Full Day 4K	\$88,050	\$74,929	\$13,121
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$9,682	\$7,398	\$2,284
Facility Quality Enhancement	\$83,869	\$79,446	\$4,423
Center Staff Training & Development	\$9,500	\$7,835	\$1,665
Public Health Based Services	\$3,800	\$3,725	\$75
County Programmatic	\$35,630	\$35,191	\$439
County Administrative	\$26,401	\$25,058	\$1,343
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$267,532</b>	<b>\$239,928</b>	<b>\$27,604</b>

## NOTABLE DONORS

DONOR'S NAME	AMOUNT
Jasper County Government	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>

**Local Match Percentage for 2006: 29.2%** (At least 15% required)

## BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 06, the Jasper County First Steps partnership board members volunteered 298 hours, including Jasper County First Steps Field Day, Jasper County Back to School Event, and visiting childcare facilities.

Value of Volunteer Time<sup>1</sup>: \$18.04 X 298 = \$5375.92

### JASPER COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Beatrice Jones, board chair/business community  
Mrs. Tina Buckner, Transportation  
Mrs. Lynda Caddell, Pratt Memorial Library representative  
Ms. Barbara Carnal, pre-k/primary educator  
Mrs. Beverly Cleland, early childhood educator  
Mrs. Heather Davis, parent  
Mrs. Priscilla Drake-Jenkins, DSS representative  
Dr. Tricia Etheridge, healthcare  
Ms. Shawana Green, childcare provider  
Mrs. Swanetta Hall, pre-k/primary educator  
Mrs. Eva Harris, healthcare  
Mrs. Adrienne Kinard, DHEC representative  
Mr. Ronnie Malphrus, non-profit organization  
Mrs. Betty Mitchell, early childhood educator  
Mrs. Brenda Mock, early childhood educator  
Mrs. Maria Noriega, parent  
Ms. Ta'Kecia Reid, parent  
Mrs. Ozell Richardson, Headstart representative  
Ms. Brenda Rivers, business community  
Mrs. Cynthia Robino, family educator  
Mrs. Anne Walker, childcare provider  
Rev. Calvin Washington, faith community  
Ms. Sheila White, early childhood educator  
Mrs. Janie Williams, non-profit organization  
Ms. Sandra Woods, school district representative

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

## SUCCESS STORIES

I was a Countdown to Kindergarten home visitor for the summer of 2005 and had the privilege to have several of my students in my class for the concurrent school term. I must say that I was pleased with the improvement of my students. All of them went to 1<sup>st</sup> grade on or above level in reading. One student is in the Young Scholars Program this year. She is doing a wonderful job and is being considered for promotion to the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Countdown to Kindergarten was very successful for my students!

Swanetta Johnson-Hall

My name is Shawana Green. I am the owner of Scott's Daycare. Jasper County Steps gave Scott's Daycare a \$3,000 grant. The grant helped to purchase age appropriate furnishings, books, and learning materials. The Jasper County First Steps staff also helped me with room arrangement and showed me how to properly use the materials. Through First Steps, I have also received quality training from certified trainers at no cost. This has allowed me to get all of the DSS credit hours I need each year, as well as keep up with all of the newest teaching techniques. Thanks to all of the assistance I have received from Jasper County First Steps, I have been able to become ABC Enhanced. I look forward to working with this organization to further improve the quality of childcare in Jasper County.

Shawana Green

The Dollywood Imagination Library sponsored by Jasper First Steps is wonderful program to encourage a love of reading among young kids. My daughter is so excited whenever she gets her book in the mail! I also enjoy sitting and reading her new book with her each month, as well as revisiting some of our favorites each day.

I love the Dollywood program! And I make it a point to tell my friends about it so they can sign up their kids, too.

ShaNeathia Anderson, mother of Brionna, age 4