



Clarendon County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

Board Chair:
Kenneth E. Mance
Executive Director:
Sharon P. Williams
Contact Information:
Post Office Box 426
Manning, SC 29102
Phone: (803) 473-2848
Fax: (803) 473-2863
E-mail: clarendonfs@ftc-
i.net

Summary

Numbers Served:

80 children served in the family literacy program; 10 higher adult education levels achieved; 86 health assessments and screenings; 158 home visits; 2,364 books distributed; 60 children served in the summer enrichment program; and 80 childcare staff trained, representing 24 child care facilities, with 716 children total at those facilities;

Total Budget:

\$491,201 (all funding sources, including the value of in-kind contributions)

Clarendon School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	2,524 (8%)
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	78%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,692
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	32%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	25%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Reading **	13%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Math**	18%
Low Birth Weight Infants	13%
Births to Mothers With Less Than High School Education	24%
Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care	30%

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

Profile Comments:

According to 2005 Kids Count data for Clarendon County,

- 21.5% of all children born in 2003 were born to mothers who had not completed the 12th grade;
- 18.6% of all babies born in the county were born to women under the age of 20 (6% to mothers under 18 years of age);
- 57.8% of all children born in the county were born to single mothers;
- 39.3% of all children live with only one parent; and
- More than 60% of the county's children under age six are in families where the single parent or both parents work.

Recognizing that in order to achieve its mission to prepare children in Clarendon County for school and for life multiple school readiness strategies must be employed, the Clarendon County First Steps Partnership Board targeted funding towards programming that supports parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher (Family Literacy), programming that puts age-appropriate reading materials into the homes of our young children (Dolly Parton's Imagination Library), programming that allows for opportunities for children to receive that little extra help during the summer prior to moving on to kindergarten (Countdown to Kindergarten and Summer Enrichment Program), and programming that gives providers the tools they need to teach young children (Child Care Center Staff Training & Development). The strategies funded by the Partnership Board are consistent with the gaps identified during our annual needs and resources assessment.

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

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 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: To increase parents' capacity to be their children's best teacher by partnering with existing parenting and family strengthening programs to provide instructional services that promote adult literacy and train parents to support the educational growth of their young children.

- *72 adults with 80 children enrolled in the program.*
- *12 adults in High School Diploma Classes; 1 adult in GED classes.*
- *2 adults gained at least one educational functioning level.*
- *2 adults advanced to a higher grade level.*
- *6 High School Diplomas were attained.*

Early Literacy

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 2007 Results

Partnership Goal : To remove barriers to early literacy development by providing age-appropriate books for children and opportunities for parents to learn about promoting early literacy development in their young children.

- *2,364 books were distributed to Clarendon children birth to five years old.*
- *260 children enrolled in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.*
- *360 Parent guides to early literacy (one for parents of children birth to two; one for parents of children two and three; and one for parents of children four and five) were distributed as part of our on-going effort to educate parents and caregivers on the importance of reading to children. These guides present information on selecting age-appropriate books and reading materials for children and offers tips on reading to children so that parents and children get the most out of their shared reading time.*

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 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: To increase parents' access to high quality summer enrichment programs for their pre-school children.

- *60 slots were available for children to attend a four-week summer enrichment program at Fleming-Felder and Paxville Head Starts.*
- *60 children were enrolled and completed the program.*

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.

FY 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: To ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 36 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

- *34 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2006. 95% percent of the children received five or more home visits.*
- *69% percent of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class.*
- *97% percent of the children qualified for free lunch.*
- *Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including:*
 - *A 16% improvement in families reading to children;*
 - *A 13% improvement in families talking to children about letters, words, or numbers;*
 - *A 44% improvement in families visiting the library with children; and*
 - *A 39% decrease in the number of hours children spent watching television or playing video games.*

Child Care

Statewide Goal South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes quality child care as a research-based determinant of school readiness. As such, First Steps will collaborate with parents, the child-care community and its agency and community partners to maximize child care 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 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: (1) To remove barriers to quality training and professional development opportunities for early care and education providers; and (2) To promote quality early care and education programs that provide a healthy, stimulating environment that will promote normal child growth and development.

- *Delivered 69 hours of childcare training on various early childhood curricula, health and safety, child guidance, child growth and development and multiple sessions (approximately 40 hours) of training for the National Child Development Associate Credential, which encompasses all of the aforementioned areas.*
- *Trained 80 staff members from 24 facilities, with over 700 children attending those facilities.*
- *Caregivers reported a satisfaction level of 4.74 out of 5 (on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent).*

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008

Although Clarendon County First Steps Partnership funded a summer enrichment program in partnership with Wateree Head Start, there are no immediate plans to fund a program in FY 2008, unless funding becomes available. The Partnership intends to continue with all other strategies discussed herein during FY 2008.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

D O L L A R S (budget only)							
State Appropriation	State-Private	In-kind	Local-Private	Lottery Appropriation	EIA Appropriation	4-K COC Initiative	TOTAL
\$202,202	\$0.00	\$188,945	\$4,243	\$4,769	\$19,502	\$71,540	\$491,201

NOTE: The above State and EIA appropriation amounts leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.

READINESS STRATEGIES	EXPENSES
Family Literacy	\$232,462
Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library	\$1,735
Private 4-K	\$37,100
Private Summer Early Education Program (Summer Enrichment Prog.)	\$28,942
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$14,507
Childcare Center Staff Training & Development	\$22,902
County Programmatic	\$30,804
County Administrative	\$23,023
TOTAL	\$391,476

Note: Expenses reflect all funding sources, including the value of in-kind contributions.

Local Match Percentage for 2007: 71.55% (at least 15% required)

BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Clarendon County First Steps Partnership Board members volunteered 100 hours, including hours contributed towards planning the kick-off for the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Value of Volunteer Time¹: \$18.77 X 100 Hours = \$1,877.00

CLARENDON COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Kenneth E. Mance, Legislative Appointee, Chairman

- ✚ Christal Abraham, Parent of a Pre-school Child
- ✚ Angie Bruner, Early Childhood Educator, Board Secretary
- ✚ Mary Cooper, Legislative Appointee
- ✚ Connie Dennis, Clarendon School District Two Representative
- ✚ Melissa Dennis, Early Childhood Educator
- ✚ John Durant, Business
- ✚ Sara Flores, Legislative Appointee
- ✚ Dee Dee Gaines, Business
- ✚ Marie Gibbons, Early Childhood Educator
- ✚ Kathleen Gibson, Childcare Provider
- ✚ Priscilla Green, Pre-K through Primary Educator
- ✚ Ellen Hamilton, Nonprofit
- ✚ Pressley Harvin, Jr. Transportation Provider
- ✚ Jennifer Kelley, Family Education, Training & Support Provider
- ✚ Vera Dell Kennedy, Pre-K through Primary Educator
- ✚ Catherine Kirby, Clarendon School District Three Representative
- ✚ Catherine Kirkpatrick, Clarendon County Department of Social Services Representative
- ✚ Amy Land, Legislative Appointee
- ✚ Georgia Mance, Head Start Representative
- ✚ Rev. Jerome McCray, Family Education, Training & Support Provider
- ✚ Ernestine Oliver, Clarendon School District One Representative
- ✚ Robert Oliver, Parent of a Pre-school Child
- ✚ O. J. Papucci, Transportation Provider
- ✚ Dr. Myra Pearson, Faith Community
- ✚ Shakeira Simmons, Parent of a Pre-school Child
- ✚ Rev. David Thurlow, Faith Community
- ✚ Marilyn Tsirigotis, County Library
- ✚ Margaret Walker, Healthcare Provider
- ✚ Sara Wells, DHEC Representative, Vice Chair
- ✚ Kathy Wright, Early Childhood Educator

¹ http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html