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# Edgefield County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

## Summary

**Numbers Served:**

344 children; 23 adults/families; 7 child care facilities, with 158 children total at those facilities; 29 higher adult education levels achieved; 155 health assessments and screenings; 272 home visits; 41 staff trained; 44 summer readiness slots and 3,308 books distributed.

**Total Budget:**

\$293,275 (includes all funding sources)

### Edgefield School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	1,693 (7%)
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	63%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	\$21,397
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	22%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	25%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Reading **	11%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Math**	21%
Low Birth Weight Infants	10%
Births to Mothers With Less Than High School Education	24%
Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care	33%

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

**Profile Comments:** *Edgefield County continued in FY 07 to focus on family strengthening, child care assistance and quality, and summer programs with the majority of our resources. With nearly one-fourth of births being to mothers with less than a high school education, we believe that the education of the parent combined with the education of the child will bring about a more lasting result. Our current needs and resource assessment indicates that 59% of survey respondents stated lack of parenting skills as the reason many of our children are not ready for first grade. This assessment also indicates that nearly 50% of parents and teachers who responded believe that a lack of summer programs is another barrier to children's success in being ready for first grade. Lastly, over half of all these same parents and teachers believe a lack of quality preschool programs is adversely affecting our children.*

## 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:** Provide an intensive parent education program focusing on the parents' role as their child's most important teacher and full partner in their child's education and vigorously promote literacy, academic achievement, goal setting, and decision-making skills of all family members.

- *23 families (31 children) received at least one Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visit.*
- *272 home visits were completed, providing parents with information and resources to strengthen their role as their child's most important teachers.*
- *40 group meetings were conducted.*
- *28 vision and health screenings were completed.*
- *83% of participating parents with low scores in reading measured a gain of one educational functioning level in this area.*
- *100% of parents entering with low scores in math measured a gain of one educational functioning level in this area.*
- *100% of parents entering with low scores in language skills measured a gain of one educational functioning level in this area.*
- *100% of participating children, ages 2.5 and older, measured gains in receptive language, as measured by the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (PPVT-III).*
- *100% of participating children showed progress in language development.*
- *100% of parents whose goal was to obtain their GED or high school diploma were successful (2 out of 2).*
- *100% of parents were satisfied with program services, as measured by family satisfaction surveys.*
- *94% of participating families demonstrated growth in supporting interactive literacy activities, as measured by the nationally recognized Parent Education Profile (PEP) Scale II.*
- *94% of participating families demonstrated growth in supporting their children's learning in formal educational settings, as measured by the PEP Scale III.*

#### ***FY 2007 Results:***

**Partnership Goal** – Provide books to children in order to increase families' access to quality literacy materials.

- *221 children were enrolled into the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.*
- *2023 books were mailed directly to children.*
- *Over 90% of children enrolled were direct referrals from DSS, DHEC, and Head Start.*
- *38% of families, after being enrolled at least one year, reported an increase in the amount of time they spent reading to their child.*
- *57% of families, after being enrolled at least one year, reported an increase in the amount of time their child spends reading or looking at books.*
- *16% of families stated on the pre-survey they read to their child less than once per week. 100% report reading to their child at least 2 or 3 times a week, after one year.*
- *50% of the families that did not have a library card when they were enrolled have acquired one.*

## 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** – Provide supplies, materials, equipment, and training to improve the quality of child care and provide parents with resources to be better able to afford quality child care.

- *158 children benefited from the quality enhancement funds and training that were provided to 8 child care facilities.*
- *6 certified child care trainings were made available in Edgefield County.*
- *48 children received a scholarship to a quality child care center.*
- *97% of children who received a scholarship that were in the program at least 60 days received at least 1 developmental screening.*
- *92% of children who received a scholarship that were in the program at least 6 months received at least 2 developmental screenings.*
- *100% of children with developmental delays after the first screening did not have developmental delays after the second screening.*
- *100% of families agreed they were satisfied with the program services.*

## 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** – Provide opportunity for 45 K-4 and K-5 children to have reinforcement of skills necessary for success in first grade through a summer remediation program, involving parents in the process of school readiness.

- *100% of children were referred by Head Start, K-4 or K-5 teachers and were those most in need of remediation or reinforcement.*
- *44 children completed the four week program.*
- *87% of children were eligible for free or reduced lunch.*
- *50 % of students had perfect attendance.*
- *94% attendance rate was achieved by students.*
- *100% of children received dental screenings.*
- *94% of children in the 4 year old class made gains from pre-test to post-test.*
- *87% of children in the 5 year old class made gains in reading from pre-test to post-test.*
- *80% of children in the 5 year old class made gains in math from pre-test to post-test.*
- *100% of children enrolled attended the summer reading program at the local library.*
- *100% of children diagnosed with speech delays attended speech therapy twice weekly.*
- *66% of children enrolled who were to be retained were promoted after completion of program.*
- *100% of families were satisfied with program services.*

**SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008**

*The strategies that are funded for 2006-2007 have not changed. We will continue to work toward offering more child care training opportunities here in Edgefield County. We have also increased funding to our family literacy program and scholarship program. Our summer readiness strategy program will not begin now until July, so it is not a strategy for FY 07-08. We delayed the start of this program to be able to make a stronger impact since school start dates were moved to late August.*

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>D O L L A R S (budget only)</b>							
<b>State Appropriation</b>	<b>State-Private</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Local-Private</b>	<b>Lottery Appropriation</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>EIA Appropriation</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$150,738	\$4,363	\$73,270	\$20,642	\$0	\$0	\$44,262	<b>\$293,275</b>

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

<b>READINESS STRATEGIES</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>
Family Literacy	\$146,180
Imagination Library	\$4,477
Summer Readiness	\$33,214
Childcare Quality Enhancement	\$20,556
Childcare training	\$3,770
Child Care Scholarships	\$50,190
County Programmatic	\$20,057
County Administrative	\$22,877
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$301,321</b>

**Note: Expenses exceeded budget because more in-kind was received than was budgeted.**

**NOTABLE DONORS**

<b>DONOR'S NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
United Way	\$500.00
Anonymous	\$270.00
Sonny and Anne Dukes	\$135.00
Providence Bapt. Church WMU	\$135.00
Linda Ely	\$135.00
Johnston Elementary School	\$135.00
59 additional donors who contributed under \$100 each	\$2,193.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,503.00</b>

**Local Match Percentage for 2007: 70.65% (at least 15% required)**

## BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Edgefield County Partnership Board members volunteered 180 hours, including fundraising for the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Value of Volunteer Time<sup>1</sup>: \$18.77 X 180 = \$3,378.60

### EDGEFIELD COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Shane Massey, Chairman, Business  
Desiree' B. Council, Vice-Chair, DSS appointee  
Angela McLaurin, Secretary, early childhood education  
Lena Baker, school district appointee  
Ava Burdell, pre-kindergarten through primary educator  
Patsy Butler, childcare and early childhood development/education provider  
Bridget Clark, library appointee  
Juanita Drummings, faith community  
Brenda Jones, parent of pre-school child  
Phyllis Lott, Head Start appointee  
Elizabeth Posey, DHEC appointee  
Gail Revis, non-profit organization that provides services to families  
Mary S. Ryans, transportation provider  
Michelle Satcher, early childhood education  
Melissa Sullivan, business  
Janet Tarbox, faith  
Amy Wilhelm, early childhood education

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## SUCCESS STORIES

One of the mothers in our family literacy program was very assertive when she enrolled in the program in August 2006. She was very impatient with her son (her youngest child), was unable to handle his behavior, even the normal behavior of a very active toddler, and was easy to lose her temper. Gradually, she became more engaged in parenting discussions and her combativeness significantly declined. She also began to acknowledge her son's strengths and refrain from drawing comparisons between him and his older sister. By year's end, she had grown tremendously in her own self-confidence and this empowered her to interact differently with both her children and their teachers. She had checked out more books than any other parent in the program; attended library story times without prompting; initiated positive and proactive contact with teachers; and began to seek additional learning resources at the parenting center that would support her children's classroom instruction. At the annual award's day program in May at the center, she was recognized for outstanding gains in language; most improved parent involvement; outstanding classroom attendance; perfect home visit attendance; and her active participation in interactive literacy activities both in the center and home environments. She has also secured full time employment and is planning to take the GED test in December.

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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)