

JASPER COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



**Parents as Teachers**

**Imagination Library**

**Countdown to Kindergarten**

**Child Care Training**

**Child Care Scholarships**

**Early Identification & Referral**

# Annual Report

2016-17



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	JASPER COUNTY
Children Under Five	293,134	1,685
Children In Poverty	24.4%	40.1%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	53.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	27.8%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Jasper County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,199,625** from sources outside state government. **That's \$.39 for every dollar received.**
- **910 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 46 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals** received technical assistance for early care best practices, resulting in **2 facilities** increasing ABC quality from Level C to **Level B**.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops**.
- **16 Little Free Libraries** planted within "book deserts" throughout Jasper County.
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 574**

### Jasper County First Steps

456 Grays Highway

Post Office Box 776

Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936

Phone: 843-726-5100

Fax: 843-726-5208

[www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org](http://www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org)

#### Board Chair

Deloris Dunham, [loiszeke@hargray.com](mailto:loiszeke@hargray.com)

#### Executive Director

Duchett Polite Hylton, [dpolite@scfirststeps.org](mailto:dpolite@scfirststeps.org)

## Minds At Work – Learning Under Construction

**Mission Possible** The mission of "getting children ready for school" infuses every strategy we implement. The Ready Kindergartner is our primary benchmark, but the Ready Graduate is our ultimate goal.

**Minds at Work** Our Partnership strives to foster a varied network of supports within the community to understand and meet the needs of our youngest learners and their families. Through our participation in the Jasper Human Services Alliance, convening of our PAT Parenting Consortium, and the exemplary leadership of our Board, the great minds of community leaders, service providers, and family representatives come together to address the question of what more can we do to positively affect the trajectory of Jasper County's children and their families.

**Learning Under Construction** Our commitment to continuous quality improvement is evidenced at all levels. In Jasper, learning is under construction. We implement evidence-based strategies proven effective through on-going evaluation. Our staff participate in quality professional development so we can support clients and our community with the best possible resources. Currently all are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians and can perform car seat check-up to keep young riders safe! We have also extended STEM-based learning through-out our strategies coining the term "STREAM Learning"- Science, Tech, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Math. This will introduce our youngest learners to science, math and literacy concepts in kid-friendly, tangible and challenging applications.

Our mission is definitely possible when we put our minds to work to build a community where learning never stops but is always under construction.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

Parents as Teachers

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Early Identification & Referral

### State Programs

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 Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.



### Early Intervention

Children’s school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention 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 are ultimately preparing children for school success.

**Based on the needs of our community, Jasper County First Steps focuses its investments in.... Family Strengthening, Early Intervention, Quality Child Care, Early Education and School Transition.**

# 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

*Early identification of children with special education needs helps them receive services as early as possible so they have the best chance of success in kindergarten and beyond.*



JCFS @ DSS Community Event  
 April 2017 – Child Abuse Prevention Month

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

- 86% ... live in poverty
- 19% ... didn't graduate high school
- 65% ... were single parent households

## EI&R by the Numbers 2016-17

Children Served	29
Materials Distributed	441
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	20

## This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- ✓ Screened **29** children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred **19** families to community resources after screening indicated need

## Thank you to our partners!

- Jasper County Department of Social Services
- Jasper County School District
- BabyNet
- PASOs of the Lowcountry

**Jasper County First Steps**  
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[www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org](http://www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org)

**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

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

88% ... live in poverty

48% ... didn't graduate from high school

23% ... were teen parents

*First Steps helps my child with team work. She is doing awesome! Also helps with language and with her accent!*

Margarita A.

PAT parent of Zoe, 2 years old

## PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	46
Children Served	48
Total Home Visits	716
Hours Spent Serving Families	760



PAT participants enjoying the wonders at the Charleston Children's Museum (December 2017)



## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged **3.8** home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed **19** potential developmental delays, and made **48** connections for families to services such as BabyNet, Adult Education, DHEC-WIC, CAPA-Cribs for Kids, Housing Assistance

## Thank you to our partners!

Blue Heron Nature Center (Conservation & Safety Group Mtg)

Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage (Read-In Group Mtg)

Jasper Feed & Seed (sack race supplies)

Holiday Farms (October STEM Grp Mtg – supplied pumpkins)

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**Children's reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.**

## Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age. One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children's brains is to read to them.**

Jasper County First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Jasper County First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



DPIIL Reading Night at the Hardeeville Library  
A visiting grandmother reads about bird watching before our outdoor excursion!

## Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	487
Books Given to Children 0-5	3881



## This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to **487** children. We maintain and open enrollment with children referred to DPIIL via parent referrals, community education events, DHEC, child care providers, DSS, online registration, etc
- ✓ Expanded literacy education and access to quality literacy material through the introduction of **16** Little Free Libraries throughout Jasper County! (To find locations, check out the LFL World Map at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/> )
- ✓ Little Free Libraries were built and decorated by Sun City's Wood Workers Guild and All About Art Club. They are housed at community centers, parks, and partnering churches throughout the county.
- ✓ Received **\$2500** grant from SC Ports Authority to expand quarterly Family Reading Nights to incorporate STEM education (STREAM Learning = Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Math)

## Thank you to our partners!

- Dollywood Foundation – Imagination Library
- Little Free Libraries
- Jasper County Government and Parks & Rec Dept
- South Carolina Ports Authority
- Sun City Community Partners

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# Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

## Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."*  
 Benjamin Franklin

**Child Care Training Sponsored by Jasper County First Steps, 2016-17**

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
How Leaders Set The Tone (for Directors and Administrators)	Four Sessions
What Does Inclusion Mean to You?	Module 1
Early Literacy Skills: Nursery Rhymes	Session 1
Early Literacy Skills: Music	Session 2



## Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	39
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	14
Number of Training Sessions Offered	7
TEAM Lowcountry Regional Conference	April 2017

CCT – **"Leaders Set The Tone"**  
 Understanding the "business" of early childhood education.  
 Tameka Phillips, trainer

**This year, our Training program provided:**

- ✓ Provided 14 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 9.5 hours of certified training and 5.0 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ Congratulations to **Ready, Set, Learn** and **Babies Beginnings** for participating in our intensive training and for successfully improving their ABC ratings from Level C to Level B!

### Thank you to our partners!

- TEAM Lowcountry Regional Conference Partners
- SC Inclusion
- Palmetto Electric Cooperative (Ridgeland & Hardeeville)

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# Child Care Scholarships

**Too many families in Jasper County cannot afford quality care for their children.**

## Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no - affordable care options.

**Jasper County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:**

- 80% ... live in poverty
- 40% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 20% ... were teen parents
- 10% ... had developmental delays

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

Jasper County First Steps integrates our scholarship program with our Family Strengthening Parents As Teachers program, providing scholarships to four (4) families. In addition, we supported SCFS's 4K program by providing six (6) Summer scholarships to students transitioning to kindergarten in Fall 2017.

*"Access to education ought to be based on how willing you are to learn...not on how many dollars your family has in their bank account."*  
 Dave Obey



STREAM Learning in Action!  
 @ Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage  
 Amy Vargas. Parent Educator

### Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	10
Providers Served	2

### This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 4 PAT participating children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Provided 6 children who attended SCFS 4K with scholarships assistance during Summer 2017 for transitional care and education between kindergarten entry
- ✓ Connected 100% of scholarships to clients enrolled in other evidence-based strategies such as Parents As Teachers home visitation or SCFS 4K enrollment (Summer 2017)

### Thank you to our partners!

- Ridgeland Baptist Church Child Care Ministry (4K)
- Beacon of Hope Child Development Center

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**Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.**

## Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children's learning is foundational for life success; and
- ✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children's early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

**Home Visitation.** Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

**Learning Celebration.** The last visit is a "field trip" to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

**Public Awareness.** Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

## \*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

Children Served	30
Families Served	30
Home/School Visits	180

*\*CTK program data is for June-August 2016, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.*



*"The teacher answered many of my questions. I wish it was longer!"*

Allison G., mother of CTK Student

## This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ **100%** gain in parents' knowledge of kindergarten expectations to the "good" or "very detailed" level of understanding..
- ✓ **Increased** the amount of time parents spent reading to children by **63%**

## Thank you to our partners!

Jasper County Government  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company  
 Jasper County School District –  
 Ridgeland and Hardeeville Elementary Schools

Like us on Facebook!  
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina



## Jasper County First Steps

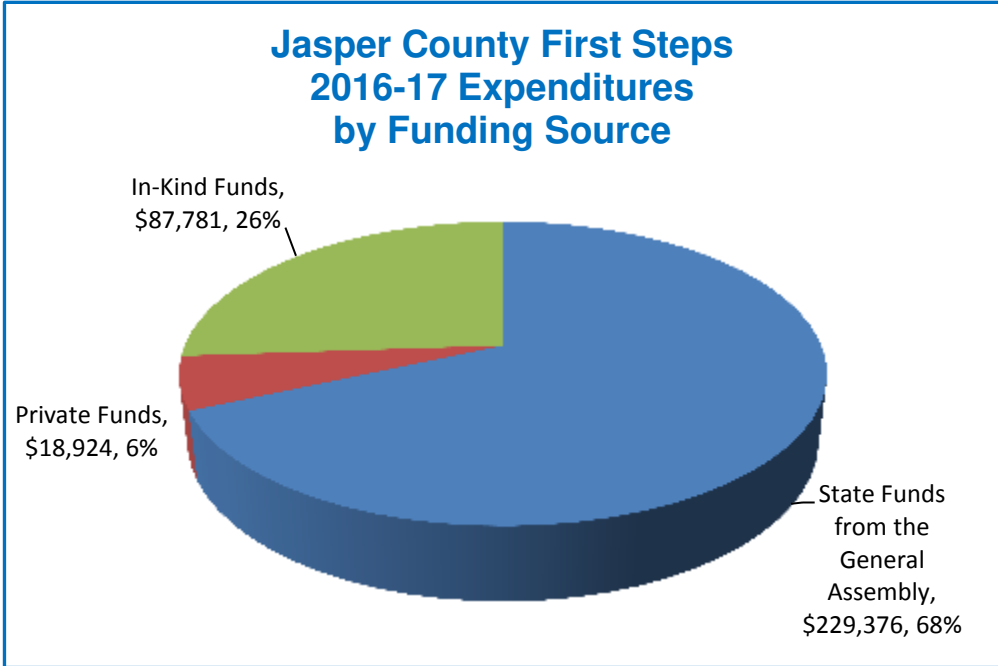
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# Financial Impact



**Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$336,536**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17\*: 47%**

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

## 2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$106,136	\$4,670	\$8,640	\$119,446	36%
Imagination Library	\$0	\$7,413	\$49,381	\$56,794	17%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$8,883	\$2,579	\$0	\$11,462	3%
Child Care Training	\$28,075	\$983	\$8,640	\$37,698	11%
Child Care Scholarships	\$23,651	\$65	\$3,840	\$27,556	8%
Early Identification & Referral	\$32,584	\$2,160	\$5,760	\$40,504	12%
Program Support	\$13,585	\$129	\$8,640	\$22,354	7%
Administrative Support	\$16,461	\$925	\$2,880	\$20,266	6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$229,375</b>	<b>\$18,924</b>	<b>\$87,781</b>	<b>\$336,080</b>	

*Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017*

**Since inception, Jasper County First Steps has leveraged \$1,202,022 from sources outside of state government. That's 39 cents for every state dollar.**

# Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Jasper County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

## Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$200,000  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*

Jasper County Council: \$15,000

SC Ports Authority Giving Fund: \$2,500



First Steps representing South Carolina @ NAEYC Conference, San Francisco, CA

## In-Kind Support

- Jasper County School District
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
- SC Child Care Voucher Program
- PAT / Angel Tree Donors



**PAT Angel Tree – Christmas 2016**  
 We collected over \$1500 to purchase gifts for all the children in families in our PAT program! 58 children in all, including siblings!

## How your support helps children in Jasper County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$70 provides a young child a new, replacement car seat! All JCFS staff are certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.
- ✓ \$25 supports our PAT Angel Tree, which gifts all children in families participating in our Parents As Teachers program with Christmas gifts each December!
- ✓ Support Little Free Libraries visit a site and donate new, or gently-loved, books! Give-a-Book, Take-a-Book share the gift of literacy!

**HOW TO GIVE:** Donations may be mailed to: Jasper County First Steps. PO Box 776. Ridgeland. SC 29936

## Save the Date!

JCFS Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2017 6:00 PM  
 Theme: Minds at Work – Learning Under Construction  
 Keynote Speaker: Ms. Annmarie Reiley-Kay, The Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage  
 Venue: Mt. Carmel Baptist Center, 3763 Bees Creek Road, Ridgeland, SC 29936  
 RSVP by 10/13/17 @ 843-726-5100 or [admin@scfirststeps.org](mailto:admin@scfirststeps.org)

**Support Jasper County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!**

# Community Impact

## Strong Community – Strong Families

### Convenor – Portal – Partner - Collaborator

By Pamela Rose, PAT Parent Educator

Jasper County First Steps focuses on being responsible for meeting the local needs of our clients and identifying collaborative opportunities to help our county’s youngest learners. We at Jasper County First Steps provide intensive levels of service to our families through weekly visits to ensure we are meeting their early childhood needs and maximizing school readiness and well-being of their young children.

From that perspective, I was sent a referral from a different state to work with a family moving into the area that had concerns of developmental delays and health issues. Before meeting with the family, I spoke with the family on the phone and they were eager to participate in the Jasper County First Steps program. The mother, was very adamant about calling and making contact to get service started. I scheduled an appointment with them to provide early intervention services to the family and to complete the Ages and Stages assessment. The assessment did show delays and services were coordinated by referrals to BabyNet. The parent educator and BabyNet worked together to ensure family received services. The partnership with BabyNet was very tactful and the parent could receive appropriate services.



Our work is made better because of our community partners!  
 Ms Yajaira Uzcategui, PASOs  
 FY17 Annual Mtg, Keynote Speaker

The parent was referred to the PAT program for home visitation services and during the visits there were additional family well-being services needed. The family was new to the area and recently moved into an apartment that lacked furniture, kitchen essentials, and, most of all, home essentials. The mother was sleeping on a mattress and the child in the car seat. I referred the family to Crib for Kids to participate in safe sleep workshop and to receive a crib upon completion. Also, mother lacked transportation to appointments of any sort. I referred family to DSS to coordinate transportation assistance through Medicaid for medical appointments or the child’s need appointments. The mother was connected to all services and received the help that was needed.



I spoke with my supervisor through reflective supervision about items needed for the home and the decision was to send a referral out to the board members to find out if there were services they were aware of to help the family with their needs. A board member provided information to contact Family Promise in Bluffton, SC . I reached out to them and explained briefly the needs of the family and was able to secure most of the services the family needed. I provided a list of items needed and some of the items were pillows, bed, chairs, rugs, sofa, cups, pots, washcloths, towels and other items for the home. Since the family did not have reliable transportation to get to Family Promise, I volunteered to pick up items that could be transported in my vehicle to the client. The agency provided three boxes of items for the family’s home as well as extra items. I provided the family with alternate information to rent a small U-haul to get any large furniture that was needed. As of today, the family has services in place through BabyNet, Disability and Special Needs, Jasper County First Steps, Crib for Kids, DSS, Medicaid and Family Promise.

Community Meeting to introduce Little Free Library  
 Levy Community Center

# Community Impact

## Improving Parenting Practices and Detecting Developmental Delays

By Amy Vargas, PAT Parent Educator

In early childhood education, family involvement is key to promoting school readiness skills in young children. All parents want their children to do well in school. Children whose parents support their academic growth are far more likely to succeed and have positive school experiences.

Parents need to know how their children are doing, how they are progressing, and what they can do to help their children prepare for and succeed in school. They also need to know that they are an important part of their children’s academic success; parents can provide experiences at home that prepare their children for school. Therefore, it is critical for me, as a Parent Educator, to teach parents how to engage, support, and involve parents in their child’s development.

I have worked as a Parent Educator for a 1 ½ years and have seen countless times that detecting developmental delays early on can make a huge difference in a child’s life. Due to having completed the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE assessments on a child I am currently serving, I was able to refer the child to BabyNet due to developmental delays. BabyNet was then able to refer this child out to MUSC who then diagnosed the child with Autism. Without the assessments I completed or the PAT program, this child and parent would not have been able to get the help they needed or have the child’s condition diagnosed at the age of 14 months.



Older siblings showing them how it’s done!  
 PAT Group Connection  
 Turpin Park, Ridgeland



JCFS @ Jag Nation Celebration 2016  
 Pamela Rose, Parent Educator, in recruitment mode!

## First Steps Makes a Difference for Families

Jennifer A., PAT Parent

First Steps has had a great impact on my child’s development. She has learned how to use her motor skills to her advantage. This program has helped me, as a parent, learn how to interact with my daughter with the different activities that we do.

First Steps also helps me interact with the community. If I am in need of help, they have been there to offer assistance, information, or even to help themselves.

# Little Free Libraries

By Bill Sonenshine, SunSations team, and Tom Balliet, contributing writer

**L**ate in 2016, not one Little Free Library existed in Jasper County. But now there are 16, thanks to the efforts of First Steps of Jasper County, several Sun City clubs, local churches, businesses, and the municipalities of Jasper County, Hardeeville and Ridgeland.

According to First Steps of Jasper County, a state-sanctioned program that provides programs and services to prepare children for kindergarten, in 2016 there were only two public libraries within the 650 square miles of Jasper County. To facilitate reading literacy and appreciation of books, the director of First Steps of Jasper County, Duchett Polite-Hylton, initiated the free library idea locally to provide easier access to books. She applied for and received a grant for four completed Little Free Libraries and got the necessary permissions to install these boxes throughout the county.

According to its website, a Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free community book exchange. Typically a small wooden box, each Little Free Library can be built and decorated to reflect its community's unique personality, and users are encouraged to donate books to keep the library growing. The Little Free Library nonprofit organization supports the initiative nationally by providing books at discounted prices through its partners.

Sun City resident Tom Balliet, who also serves on

the Board of Directors for First Steps of Jasper County, received the cooperation of the Sun City Woodworkers Guild and the All About Art Club to build and decorate 12 more Little Free Libraries for distribution throughout Jasper County. The Sherwin Williams paint store in Bluffton donated previously mis-tinted paint so the All About Art Club could decorate the boxes, and the Sun City Book Exchange Club donated excess adult books. Children's books were provided by the nonprofit Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

The woodworkers said it took about three hours to build each box using kits available through the Little Free Library organization. Ladies of the All About Art Club spent three weeks painting the libraries, carefully choosing colors and details for each. First Steps staff visit each site weekly to make sure books are available in the Little Free Libraries.

Volunteers for the project include woodworkers Dick Goodness, Jay Hubelbank, David Maass, Larry Manning and Bob Steuber; Book Exchange member Rich Zaino; and Art Club members Barbara Bass, Judith Beckler, Kay Ford, Jody Fredeen, Trish Jedrick, Jo Kimberlin, Joann Madison, Kate Metcalf, Chris Mitts, Shirley Olinger, Barb Postel, Joyce Taylor and Nancy Truman.

For locations and more information about Little Free Libraries, visit <https://littlefreelibrary.org>.



Woodworkers David Maass, Dick Goodness, Bob Steuber and Larry Manning helped build the Little Free Libraries.



All About Art Club members painted the Little Free Libraries. (Front row, from left) Jody Fredeen, Duchett Polite-Hylton and son, and Chris Mitts. (Back row, from left) Tom Balliet, Judith Beckler, Barb Postel, Trish Jedrick and Joyce Taylor.



Little Free Libraries, like this one designed by Barbara Bass, allow for easier access to books throughout Jasper County.

Reprinted with permission from SunSations Magazine, September 2017

Find Little Free Libraries in Jasper County, on the world map at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap/>

# First Steps Partnership Board

## 2017 Cathy B. Gardner Community Fun Day – Another Great Success!

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, JCFS hosted its second Growing Healthy Families Community Fun Day. The event was a great success convening local and state-wide community agencies, organizations, businesses and concerned citizens to positively impact, empower and support young children and their families. We had more than 450 participants to come and enjoy a day of fun, education, and inspiration! We continue to celebrate the life, leadership and legacy of Mrs. Cathy B. Gardner, a true ‘Champion of Children’.



We acknowledge and thank all our 2017 event partners and the host of volunteers!

- |                          |                           |                        |                        |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 98.7 FM – The River      | DHEC – Jasper             | Hunger Free Zone       | Ridgeland Fire Dept    |
| Access Health            | DSS – Jasper              | JAHA Adult Education   | RHHS ROTC Cadets       |
| AHJ Regional Library     | First Steps – Beaufort    | JCSD – Booster Club    | SC DSS – ABC Quality   |
| BJ EOC – Head Start      | First Steps – Hampton     | PASOs                  | SC Highway Patrol –    |
| BJH Comprehensive Health | Fresh Start Healing Heart | Pepsi Co.              | Corporal Myrick        |
| BlueChoice Health Plan   | Healthy Steps             | Powerhouse             | Select Health          |
| Medicaid                 | Hopeful Horizons          | Entertainment          | Town of Ridgeland      |
|                          |                           | Pregnancy Ctr & Clinic | Volunteers in Medicine |

## Jasper County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Dr. Tom Balliet	Member	Philanthropic Community
Ms. Deloris Dunham	Chairperson	Family Education Support
Ms. DaShon Ellis-Campbell	Member	Library Representative
Ms. Eleanor Hazel	Vice-Chairperson	School District Representative
Ms. Kimberly Malphrus	Member	DHEC Representative
Ms. Constance Martin-Witter	Member	Early Childhood Educator
Rev. Dave Allen Mitchell, III	Member	Faith Community
Ms. Ladenier Mitchell	Secretary	DSS Representative
Ms. Sharon Murdock	Member	PreK/Primary Educator
Mr. Kelvin Peoples	Member	Business Community
Ms. Denise Smith	Treasurer	Local Government
Ms. Sheila White	Member	Early Childhood Educator
Ms. Margaret Williams	Member	Early Childhood Educator
Ms. Mary Wrighten	Member	Family Education Support

# Getting children ready for school.

## 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 with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

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



### EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

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



[I CAN] is First Steps' public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state's Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

Visit: [ican.sc](http://ican.sc)

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