

McCORMICK COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Nurse Family Partnership

Early Education for Children Under 4

Library Based Literacy

Other Family Literacy
Reach Out and Read

Child Care Scholarships

Triple P—Positive Parenting Program

Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	McCormick County
Children Under Five	291,026	292
Children In Poverty	24.4%	35.2%
3 rd Graders Scoring "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	34.8%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	16.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged \$2,312,557 from sources outside state government. **That's about \$.82 for every dollar received.**
- **639 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 83 families in our Parents As Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership Programs.
- Improved parenting practices through **60 Group Meetings, trainings, activities and events.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 196**
- **Total Adults Served in FY17: 83**
- **3516 Books given to children to take home and keep**

McCormick County First Steps
 P. O. Box 1060
 615-A Clayton Street
 McCormick, SC 29835

864-852-9018
 Pamela Turman, Board Chair
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McCormick County First Steps Pamela Turman, Board Chair

Our McCormick partnership has had an exciting and fulfilling year. Our child care center, working hard and partnering with the Department of Social Services, earned an A+ rating. This indicates that we are a center that provides the highest quality experiences for the children we serve.

We also found out this year that we will be awarded an Early Head Start Federal Grant. For most of the year we have had a waiting list of approximately a dozen children, who wanted and needed child care that we were unable to provide. This grant will offer us two more child care rooms, to serve sixteen more children, ages birth to three. We are excited and anxiously awaiting the start-up of these classrooms.

We provided Triple P—Positive Parenting Training this year to 24 adults. The training was well-received, with parents agreeing to try the new skills they learned with their children.

We continue to collaborate with McCormick School District, Carolina Health Centers, Head Start, the Lutheran Church by the Lake, and many other local groups and organizations. This collaborative effort allows us to provide services, at the least possible cost, to the children in our programs.

We are proud of the programs we offer and the benefits we can provide to pre-school children and their families.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- TripleP—Positive Parenting Program
- Other Family Literacy—Reach Out and Read
- Library Based Literacy
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Early Education for Children Under 4
- Scholarships

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, McCormick County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, Early Education, Healthy Start, Quality Childcare and Early Intervention.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

In McCormick County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Carolina Health Centers.

McCormick First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our NFP families:

- All were eligible for Medicaid, TANF, food stamps and WIC.
- Some had medical issues such as hypertension and asthma
- We found unsafe living conditions, intimate partner violence, minimal to no family support, absent father or non-supportive/involved father
- Developmental delays
- Low maternal education, teenager, cigarette use, unemployment and underemployment



NFP by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served		6
Number of Home Visits		79

Client Quotes:

“I’m able to ask questions about things that concern me and get advice on taking care of my baby and how to be a good mother.”

“My nurse is teaching me things that I never knew and answering questions I didn’t even know to ask.”

This year, in our NFP program:

- ✓ A client’s child developmental delays were discovered and early intervention was initiated. This child receives BabyNet services, speech, physical, and occupational therapy and has shown progress. He is now able to crawl and can stand while holding on to furniture.
- ✓ None of the infants born were low birth weight or less than 37 weeks gestation at birth.
- ✓ One teen client graduated high school and two other teens returned to school after delivery. One of these teens plans to go to college to be a nurse.
- ✓ Referrals were made to dentist for client and child; housing; education beyond high school; child safety-car seat classes; smoking cessation; mental health; text4baby, 211 resource line, First Steps child care center, DHEC for WIC and breast feeding assistance; job and employment assistance, etc.

Thank you to our partners!

- Carolina Health Centers
- Edgefield County First Steps

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Parents as Teachers

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

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 54% ... have been exposed to substance abuse, maternal depression, or domestic violence
- 21% ... had an incarcerated parent



Parent and Child at Family Activity Night

Quotes from our Clients:

I love seeing my daughter play and use her motor skills.

This program has improved my child's learning ability and his mobility skills.

The most helpful thing to our family is having someone come to my home and show interest in me and my child.

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	27	
Children Served	27	
Total Home Visits	544	
Hours Spent Serving Families	579	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS .32 Increase	ACIRI Adult .28 Child .48 Increase

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.75 home visits per family, per month. We targeted the most at risk families, averaged 4.21 Risk Factors per family, with 95.8% families having 2 or more factors
- ✓ Identified and addressed 19 potential developmental delays, with 100% of children receiving assessments. Made 15 connections for families to services such as literacy programs, child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, etc.
- ✓ One child, born at 1lb. 6 oz. had many developmental delays when we began visiting. He continually improved and loved the books we brought and the activities we provided. We saw improvement at every visit. The child no longer has delays.
- ✓ One parent has taken her role as the first, most important teacher of her child quite seriously. She reads to her boys nightly. She has an easy, quiet temperament which allows her to create a positive environment, in which her family can learn and thrive.
- ✓ One child was nervous and afraid when we began visiting. He now makes eye contact, smiles and is more social. We referred him to our child care center, which has helped with his socialization.

Thank you to our partners!

- McCormick School District
- Good Shepherd Catholic Church

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Library Literacy

85% of a child’s brain growth happens in the first three years. This programs aids in brain growth by increasing vocabularies and providing new experiences.

Program Description

To improve our children’s literacy skills, we provide story time twice each month. At each session each child receives a book to take home and keep. To further increase pre-reading skills, twice each month a music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes. In addition, art projects and special events are provided as part of this program.

Target Population

Approximately 65 children from the First Steps child care center and the Head Start classrooms are served in this program. All children have at least one board-approved risk factor

Service Delivery

The director from our Public Library reads stories and does activities with children twice each month. A volunteer music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes twice each month. Art projects are provided by the local arts council and by volunteers from the Lutheran Church. Special music and literacy events are also provided.

Staffing and Qualifications

The library director has many years of experience and does a wonderful job. The music volunteer is a former elementary music teacher and knows exactly how to work with pre-school children. Our other volunteers are either former elementary teachers or have an expertise in certain types of art or music.

Assessment

The teachers and child care providers evaluate each class of children on listening skills, with the hope that the skills improve throughout the year. Teachers are surveyed to determine improvement in pre-literacy skills, based on their observation.



Volunteer, dressed like a turkey, reading a book about turkeys in November.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

# Children Served	71
# Sessions	38
# Hours	95
# Stories	153
# Songs	130
# Activities	132
# of Books Given	828

This year, in our Family Literacy program:

- ✓ Listening improved from 2.7 for the 1st half of the year to 4.3 for the second half of the year (scale 1-5)
- ✓ 100% of Head Start Teachers stated that this program helped the children they serve develop all six pre-reading skills
- ✓ 86% of teachers rated this program as Very Valuable and 100% rated it as Valuable or Very Valuable
- ✓ 100% of teachers said that this program was a benefit to their children

Thank you to our partners!

McCormick Public Library	Susie Hartz
McCormick Arts Council	First Book
Lutheran Church by the Lake	

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Other Family Literacy Reach Out and Read

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

Program Description

- We provide 75% of the funds to serve approximately 20 children in McCormick’s Reach Out and Read Program.
- At every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and offer age-appropriate tips.
- Parents, who may have difficulty reading, will be encouraged to invent their own stories to go with picture books and to spend time naming objects with their children.
- At each well-child visit, providers will give every child, between the ages of six months and five years, a new, developmentally appropriate children’s book to keep.



Reading and Talking to Children is the best way to increase their vocabularies and ensure that they will be ready for school.

Fidelity:

Doctors and nurses at McCormick Family Practice have been trained in the Reach Out and Read model. The Reach Out and Read South Carolina Center monitors our program to ensure that the model is being implemented with fidelity.

Reach Out and Read by the Numbers 2016-17

Children Served	21
Books Given to Children 0-5	80

This year in our Reach Out and Read program:

- ✓ 78.5% of families surveyed reported that they do, or will begin, reading at least 30 minutes a day with their child.
- ✓ Survey results showed that returning ROR parents were more likely to be using one or more of the recommended strategies with their child. Strategies include: letting child turn the pages, pointing out pictures, taking children to the library, etc.
- ✓ Progress report numbers demonstrate that each child seen in the clinic for a well-child visit received a ROR book—a 100% compliance rate.
- ✓ This program has an overall “green” quality rating, which is given after multiple points of evaluation by our Program Specialist. A “green” rating is the highest rating of quality and indicates compliance with the ROR model.

Thank you to our partners!

Reach Out and Read – Carolinas
 McCormick Family Practice

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Triple P—Positive Parenting Program

Program Description

This program is a parenting and family support system designed to prevent—as well as treat—behavioral and emotional problems in children. It aims to prevent problems in the family, school and community before they arise and to create family environments that encourage children to realize their potential.

All families who receive a child care scholarship are required to attend this training. We also serve families referred by DSS and families who are referred by parent educators in our Parents as Teachers program and nurses in our Nurse Family Partnership program.

Triple P by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	17
Adult Family Members Served	24
Number of Training Sessions Offered	9
Number of Training Hours Offered	18

Client Quotes:

I tried promoting independence, by letting my three year old get herself dressed and by letting my two year old put on her shoes and socks.

We tried avoiding traps by getting up early and being on time.

I want to have a positive learning environment for me and my child. I learned to spend more time reading.

By listening to my child I actually learned a lot and she seems to be listening more.

I have a better outlook on grand parenting my grands.

I learned different and better ways of parenting.

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 24 Adults who attended the training agreed to try skills learned and reported back their progress at the next session.
- ✓ When asked if participants intended to implement the parenting advice they received in this training the response was “yes definitely” (6.9 on a scale of 1-7)
- ✓ When asked did you gain sufficient knowledge or information to be able to implement the parenting advice you heard about, participants replied “yes definitely” (6.8 on a scale of 1-7)



Both grandparents and parents attended this positive parenting program.

Thank you to our partners!

- McCormick School District
- McCormick Head Start

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in McCormick 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.

McCormick First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 88% ... are single mothers working or going to school
- 25% ... were teen parents or had less than a high school diploma
- ... had been exposed to maternal depression or mental health or domestic violence
- 31% depression or mental health or domestic violence

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.

In McCormick we integrate our scholarship program with Parents as Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership. We give our families in those programs priority when offering scholarships. We also integrate this program with our library literacy program. All children who receive scholarships attend the Even Start Child Care Center and also attend the Library Literacy program. Families who received scholarships all attended our Triple P—Positive Parenting Training.

A scholarship to the Even Start Child Care Center allows me to have gainful employment and quality child care. I don't have to worry when my child is there!

Laneshia Kelly



Scholarship children participated in a visit from the fire fighters and the EMTs. They got to sit in the truck, wear a fire hat and go inside the ambulance.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	18
Providers Served	1

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 18 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 3 potential developmental delays among scholarship children.
- ✓ 100% of the families were connected to other services or interventions.
- ✓ Provided 18 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as parenting skills and discipline.
- ✓ 100% of children were evaluated for developmental delays and referred as necessary.

Thank you to our partners!

- McCormick School District
- Even Start Child Care Center
- Department of Social Services
- BabyNet

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Early Education for Children Under 4

Children involved in high-quality preschool are more likely to have better academic outcomes.

Program Description

This program provides quality child care for infants and toddlers. We focus on the most at-risk children, especially those children with multiple risk factors and developmental delays.

We use certified child care providers, who continually increase their knowledge of early childhood development through training each year.

We maintain high ABC Enhanced and ITERS scores and use Creative Curriculum for infants and toddlers to help improve children’s vocabularies.

Measurements

To measure the quality of the classrooms, we use the official ABC report from DSS. In addition we use an independent evaluation—The Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale.

To measure increases in children’s vocabularies, we use the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

To ensure that children with developmental delays receive necessary services, we use Ages and Stages and teacher and parent reports to determine developmental delays or concerns.

“My child needed to be around other children and it did him well. He is doing well in Head Start now. Even Start is a wonderful program and the teachers are wonderful, too.”
Dorothy Anderson



Children celebrating a week of Toddler Summer Camp with a Luau. Some children got to socialize with others for the first time during camp.

Early Education by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	31
Providers Served	1

This year, our Early Education program:

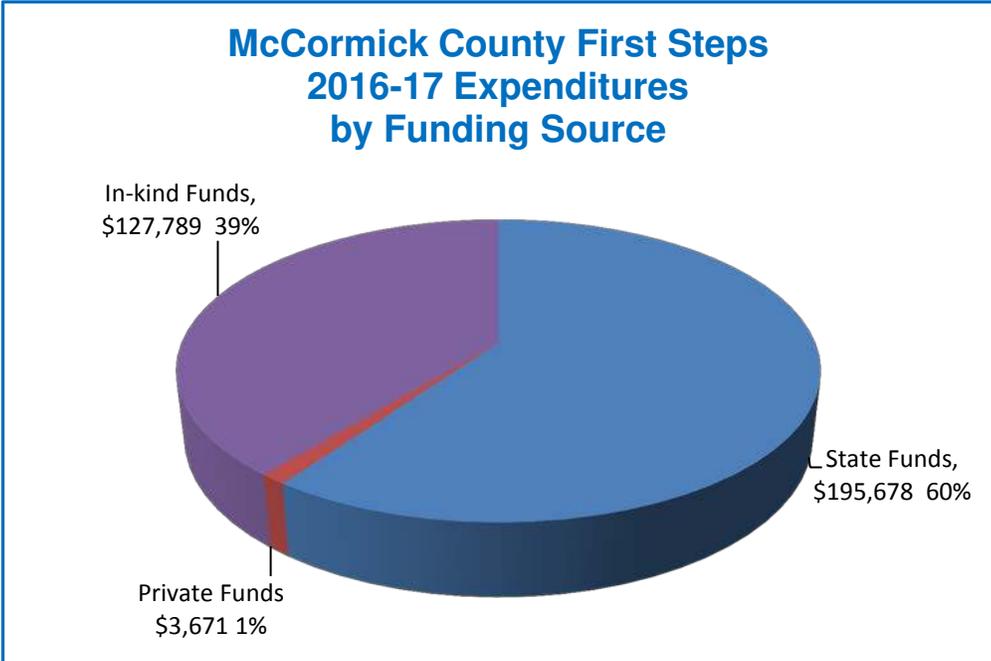
- ✓ This program earned an A+ quality rating from DSS. Hard work by our director and child care providers made this possible. Our most recent ITERS score is 5.05.
- ✓ 100% of children received developmental screenings and 100% of children with developmental delays are receiving services
- ✓ On the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test students demonstrated, on average, a 5% increase. Students on average scored in the “High Average Score” range at 103

Thank you to our partners!

- McCormick County School District
- Women of the Lutheran Church by the Lake
- DSS-ABC Technical Assistance Support

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Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$327,138

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 67%

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

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$29,690	\$0	\$554	\$38,755	\$68,999	21%
Triple P--Positive Parent Program	\$6,799	\$0	\$296	\$0	\$7,095	2%
Other Family Literacy-ROR	\$5,521	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,521	2%
Library Based Literacy	\$14,714	\$0	\$0	\$7,113	\$21,827	7%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$15,007	\$0	\$663	\$6,722	\$22,392	7%
Child Care Scholarships	\$23,759	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,759	7%
Early Ed. for Children Under 4	\$79,046	\$0	\$1,336	\$67,599	\$147,981	45%
Program Support	\$12,582	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$13,382	4%
Administrative Support	\$8,560	\$0	\$821	\$6,800	\$16,181	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$195,678	\$0	\$3,670	\$127,789	\$327,137	

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

Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged \$2,312,557 from sources outside of state government. That's 82 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, McCormick 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)
- Good Shepherd Men's Club: \$2,000
- Lutheran Men in Mission: \$1,000
- Senator Floyd Nicholson: \$900
- Lutheran Church by the Lake: \$623
- Wal Mart: \$500
- Marsha & Larry Tarbet: \$250
- Jill Hodges: \$150
- Good Shepherd Women's Club: \$100
- Lions Club: \$100
- John Shaw & Susan Payne: \$100
- T. W. Gilroy: \$25
- Gwendolyn Gilroy: \$25

In-Kind Support

- McCormick County School District
- Carolina Health Center
- First Book
- Kevin Rasberry
- Lutheran Church by the Lake

Fund Raising

- Annual Fund Raising Letter: \$1720
from 35 individuals
- Savannah Lakes Village Women's Golf
Association: \$529
- Silent Auction at Annual Meeting: \$202

How your support helps children in McCormick County:

- ✓ \$50 provides a full-time scholarship, for one week, for a child in our child care center
- ✓ \$30 provides a part-time scholarship, for one week, for a child in our child care center
- ✓ A donation of any size will be used to enhance the lives of the children we serve, by providing field trips, special events, or learning experiences that they would otherwise not have.
- ✓ To donate: mail check or money order to: McCormick County First Steps, P. O. Box 1060, McCormick, SC 29835



Sweet children like these benefit from our programs
and your contributions.

Support McCormick First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

Community Involvement

We have made an extra effort this year to be out in the community, promoting First Steps, recruiting families for our programs, and showing support for other local organizations.

We joined the McCormick Chamber of Commerce and attend monthly meetings. We are able to share with the other members of the community, the work we do and the services we offer. Next year we will be hosting a Chamber meeting at our location, so the community can see our new Early Head Start classrooms and all the exciting things happening at the McCormick Learning Center, where we are located.

We participate in McCormick County Child Welfare Improvement Team Meetings, held quarterly at our DSS offices. At these meetings we obtain information that we can pass on to our families and are able to share our latest news and information. As a group we recently collaborated to figure out a way to get a station in McCormick, where parents can go to get help correctly installing baby car seats.

Meetings were held with our community partners and other local organizations that serve pre-school children and their families. Our latest project is a resource directory that we've prepared for our families. Using input from approximately 15 different organizations, we have the directory finished and printed. It offers names and phone numbers for parents to call for topics such as early education, food assistance, health/medical, housing, mental health, special needs services, and many others. Not only will we give it to the families we serve, but our partners will be able to give it to their clients. This document was made possible by the efforts of many and a grant from Wal-Mart to pay for the printing.



Community Events

We attended and participated in several community events. We had an information booth at the Gold Rush Festival and used that opportunity to solicit families to attend our Positive Parenting Training. In addition, we provided books to children during that event.

We also attended the Harvest Festival at Pine Grove AME Church. At that event we gave out books and provided a storytime.

The families and children from our child care center, our parenting program and our Head Start partners participated in the Holiday Parade. Parents, children, child care providers and friends enjoyed a beautiful winter day to see and be seen. Two of our three legislators also participated in the parade. We were able to use that opportunity to wish them Happy Holidays from McCormick County First Steps.

We keep the community informed through our local newspaper. This year we had 15 "Talk to Me" articles and 18 other articles about activities and events happening with First Steps. We also use our web site and Facebook to publicize news. In this small rural community, we know we all need to work together, help each other and share resources for our programs and organizations to be successful.

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

First Steps Partnership Board

Strong Collaborations help make a Strong Partnership

McCormick School District McCormick County School District is a wonderful partner for McCormick County First Steps. They recognize the importance of early childhood education and the effect it has on later school success. They financially support both our parenting program and our child care center. They have recently agreed to partner with First Steps to bring Early Head Start to McCormick. We work closely with each other to ensure that standards are being met. We feel that we have 100% support from the superintendent.

Legislators

We have good relationships and great support from our State Legislators. We have spoken with all three many times during this fiscal year. The executive director attended a reception for Sen. Nicholson and spoke to Sen. Massey and Rep. Parks at the local Holiday Parade. All legislators were sent correspondence regarding congratulations on their reelection, reauthorization and other topics. Sen. Nicholson donated generously to our partnership to enable our children to have a field trip to the Columbia zoo. We appreciate their support and value these relationships.

McCormick County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Michelle Anderson	McCormick Head Start Teacher	Head Start Appointee
Karen Beckner	Midlands Prosthetics and Orthotics	Family Ed, Trng, Support Provider
Shanikque Blackwell	DHEC employee	DHEC Appointee
Paul Brown, Vice Chair	Director McCormick Public Library	Library Appointee
Luella Crosby	Retired McCormick School District	Family Ed, Trng, Support Provider
Nadine Freeman	John de la Howe School	Healthcare provider
Paulette Freeman	John de la Howe School	Legislative Appointee
Deborah Gunter	GLEAMNS – Abbeville Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Daisy Johnson	Retired McCormick Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Heather McNally	Program Director McCormick Arts Council	Other Non-Profit MACK
Shirley Middleton	Child Care Provider McCormick School District	Childcare Provider
Sue Mitchell	Retired	Early Childhood Education
Kevin Rasberry	Owner Legacy Ed.	Business Community
Robbie Seigler	DSS Supervisor	DSS Appointee
Earline Tennant	Member Spirit and Life Church	Faith Community
Mary Thompson	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Pam Turman, Chair	McCormick School District Supervisor and Lead Teacher	School District Appointee
Mae Phillips Turner	Retired	Other Non-Profit Friends of the Library

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



In McCormick, the McCormick County School District has a 4K classroom



EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

McCormick County First Steps will be partnering with the McCormick School District to bring two Early Head Start Classrooms to the McCormick Learning Center.

McCormick has received the grant and planning steps are being taken to have these new classrooms in place, to serve sixteen children, age's birth to 3, during the 2018 fiscal year.



[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

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