



PROGRAMS

Early Head Start

Quality Counts

Nurse Family Partnership



ANNUAL REPORT

2016 - 2017

VISION:

*Every child in Spartanburg County
will enter school ready for success.*



First Steps WORKS for the children of Spartanburg County.

Spartanburg County First Steps

Annual Report 2016-2017

By the Numbers

Indicator	SC	Spartanburg County
Children Under 5	290,519	18,222
Children in Poverty	27.3%	21.5%
3rd Graders Scoring "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	Spartanburg 1: 16.2% Spartanburg 2: 16.8% Spartanburg 3: 19.3% Spartanburg 4: 22.2% Spartanburg 5: 20.4% Spartanburg 6: 29.3% Spartanburg 7: 28.9%
Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma	15.7%	15.9%

County Statistics

First Steps serves children pre-birth to 5 years old who are at risk of not being ready for school.

- Since inception, Spartanburg County First Steps has leveraged \$34,553,500 from sources outside of state government. That's \$2.54 for every state dollar received.
- Spartanburg County First Steps Quality Counts Program works with 52% of the child care centers in the county to improve the quality of early education for young children during FY15.
- First Steps successfully managed the EHS and CCP grants at full enrollment in the 2016-2017 program year.
- Since 2009, over 500 Spartanburg County vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies received services from Nurse Family Partnership.

Our Results

- ✓ Early Head Start #'s
200 enrollment slots awarded!
- ✓ Quality Counts #'s
52% early care and education programs in Spartanburg County enrolled in Quality Counts
Over 2400 children benefit daily from quality care.
- ✓ Nurse Family Partnership #'s
Serving 200 first time pregnant moms and children



Wanda Fowler has been associated with education, either attending, teaching or serving in leadership most all of her life. After graduating from Boiling Springs High School in 1967 she became the first student to enroll in the University of South Carolina Spartanburg, at the time, now USC Upstate.

Her list of professional accomplishments in teaching at Boiling Springs High School, USC Upstate and as Executive Director of Middle Tyger Community Center is nothing short of "Awesome."

In the year 1999, South Carolina First Steps became the state's comprehensive early childhood education initiative. Each South Carolina County is home to a First Steps Partnership responsible for meeting local needs and identifying collaborative opportunities to help our state's youngest learners.

Spartanburg County, with the help of many, has supported early education with outstanding Board Leadership over the past 17 years. Each of the seven Spartanburg County School Districts has a representative position on the First Steps Board. Wanda was appointed to the Spartanburg First Steps Board by Dr. Sid Crumpton, Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Five. Wanda has served on the First Steps board for seventeen years.

Wanda has recently retired from the Middle Tyger Community Center in District Five, and is retiring from the First Steps Board this year. Her guidance, leadership, friendship, understanding and love of education is a gift to the children of our County and State.

Thank you, Wanda Fowler, for giving your gifts, graces and advice! We are all the better for your leadership and I am honored to think of you as a sister and friend.

With a heart full of thankfulness, love and admiration,

Carolyn



Spartanburg County First Steps
900 South Pine Street
Spartanburg S.C. 29302
864-327-4900
www.1steps.org
Board Chair
Wanda L. Fowler

County Programs

- Early Head Start
- Quality Counts
- Nurse Family Partnership

State Programs

- Baby Net
- 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 Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.



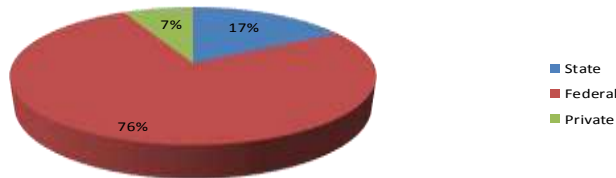
School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs assessment of our community, Spartanburg County First Steps focuses its investments in Quality Childcare and Early Head Start.

Financial Impact

**Expenditures by Funding Source
FY1617 (07/01/16 - 06/30/17)**



**Total 2016-2017
Expenditures
\$3,979,548**

Funds Leveraged 491%

Fiscal Year	State	Federal	Private	Total	
07/01/2015 - 06/30/2016	\$ 673,139	\$ 3,010,234	\$ 296,175	\$ 3,979,548.20	
State Leverage %:	491%				
Strategy	State	Federal	Private	Total	%
Administrative	\$ 209,001	\$ 23,601	\$ -	\$ 232,602	6%
Programmatic	\$ 111,092	\$ 84,635	\$ 5,108	\$ 200,836	5%
Quality Counts	\$ 314,557	\$ -	\$ 225,174	\$ 539,731	14%
Early Head Start	\$ -	\$ 1,511,106	\$ 5,982	\$ 1,517,088	38%
Child Care Partnership	\$ -	\$ 1,121,404	\$ -	\$ 1,121,404	28%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$ -	\$ 269,488	\$ 24,012	\$ 293,500	7%
Community Outreach	\$ 38,490	\$ -	\$ 35,899	\$ 74,388	2%
Total:	\$ 673,139	\$ 3,010,234	\$ 296,175	\$ 3,979,548	100%
	17%	76%	7%	100%	

EHS Monthly Board Report - June 2017

Agency Name	Agency #
Spartanburg County First Steps - EHS	04CH1001002
Program Year Begin Date	July 1

Section A - Budget Summary					Non-Federal		
Program Function / Activity	Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Federal	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Required	Received	Shortage
		Awarded					
3) PA-25	93.600	1,457,873	1,457,873	(0)	373,305	373,305	-
4) PA-1126	93.600	35,343	35,343	-	-	-	-
5) Totals	93.600	1,493,216	1,493,216	(0)	-	-	-

Section B - Budget Categories for Federal Funds										
Object Class Categories	Program Funds			Professional Development			Totals			Notes
	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	
A) Personnel	696,881	715,646	(18,765)	-	-	-	696,881	715,646	(18,765)	
B) Fringe Benefits	277,373	321,092	(43,719)	-	-	-	277,373	321,092	(43,719)	
C) Travel	-	-	-	12,363	12,363	-	12,363	12,363	-	
D) Equipment	-	2,385	(2,385)	-	-	-	-	2,385	(2,385)	
E) Supplies	39,340	38,581	759	-	-	-	39,340	38,581	759	
F) Contractual	301,407	243,710	57,697	-	-	-	301,407	243,710	57,697	
G) Facilities/Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
H) Renovations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
I) Other	101,084	105,644	(4,560)	22,980	22,980	-	124,064	128,624	(4,560)	
J) Total (A-I)	1,416,085	1,427,057	(10,972)	35,343	35,343	-	1,451,428	1,462,400	(10,972)	
K) Indirect Charges	41,788	30,816	10,972	-	-	-	41,788	30,816	10,972	
L) Total (J-K)	1,457,873	1,457,873	(0)	35,343	35,343	-	1,493,216	1,493,216	(0)	

Notes

Worksheet for the period of 07/01/17 - 06/30/17

CCP Monthly Board Report - June 2017

Agency Name	Agency #
Spartanburg County First Steps - CCP	04HP0038
Program Year Begin Date	September 1

Section A - Budget Summary					Non-Federal		
Program Function / Activity	Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Federal	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Required	Received	Shortage
		Awarded					
3) PA-25	93.600	1,089,028	1,133,688	(44,660)	282,188	282,188	-
4) PA-1126	93.600	39,723	39,398	325	-	-	-
5) Totals	93.600	1,128,751	1,173,087	(44,336)	-	-	-

Section B - Budget Categories for Federal Funds										
Object Class Categories	Program Funds			Professional Development			Totals			Notes
	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	
A) Personnel	465,652	472,592	(6,940)	-	-	-	465,652	472,592	(6,940)	Expenses are from 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2017. Budget period is 09/01/2016 - 08/31/2017.
B) Fringe Benefits	178,086	203,027	(24,941)	-	-	-	178,086	203,027	(24,941)	
C) Travel	-	-	-	11,072	10,747	325	11,072	10,747	325	
D) Equipment	20,000	1,632	18,368	-	-	-	20,000	1,632	18,368	
E) Supplies	25,120	48,563	(23,443)	-	-	-	25,120	48,563	(23,443)	
F) Contractual	316,373	312,915	3,458	-	-	-	316,373	312,915	3,458	
G) Facilities/Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
H) Renovations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
I) Other	44,830	64,144	(19,314)	28,651	28,651	(0)	73,481	92,795	(19,314)	
J) Total (A-I)	1,050,061	1,102,873	(52,812)	39,723	39,398	325	1,089,784	1,142,271	(52,487)	
K) Indirect Charges	38,967	30,816	8,151	-	-	-	38,967	30,816	8,151	
L) Total (J-K)	1,089,028	1,133,688	(44,660)	39,723	39,398	325	1,128,751	1,173,087	(44,336)	

Notes

Worksheet for the period of 07/01/16 - 06/30/17



Early Head Start (FS EHS)



Program Description

Early Head Start provides high quality, culturally sensitive child development and parent support in homes and centers.

Spartanburg County First Steps Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten.

- Spartanburg County First Steps **Quality Counts** works with 50 % of the child care centers in the county to improve the quality of early education for young children.
- All seven school districts are represented on the First Steps Board.
- The School Readiness Community Team includes School District Personnel.
- FS EHS** contracts with two school districts to provide Early Head Start services with family literacy sites.



School Readiness

- ✓ Readiness does not happen at the same time or in the same way for all children
- ✓ 90% of Early Head Start children were developing typically based on GOLD Assessment- April 2017

FS EHS by the Number\$

Early Head Start		
Funding Source	FY1516	FY1617
State Funding	\$ -	\$ -
South Carolina First Steps	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funding	\$ 1,500,769	\$ 1,529,127
Early Head Start	\$ 1,467,438	\$ 1,493,216
*CACFP	\$ 33,331	\$ 35,911
*ABC	\$ -	\$ -
Private Funding	\$ 2,993	\$ 2,616
School District 7	\$ -	\$ -
Parent Co-Pays	\$ 2,993	\$ 2,616
Total:	\$ 1,503,762	\$ 1,531,743
*CACFP - Child and Adult Care Food Program		
*ABC - ABC Childcare Program		

FS EHS Enrollment and Attendance	EHS	CCP
Funded Enrollment-	120	80
Average Monthly Enrollment	120	80
Number of Children Served	201	129
Number of Families Served	164	111
Percentage of Eligible Children Served	100%	100%
Percentage of Attendance for the Year	83%	84%
# of Pregnant Women Served	31	n/a
# of Children & Families on Waitlist	29	15

Child Care Partnership

Funding Source	FY1516	FY1617
State Funding	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funding	\$ 989,612	\$ 1,196,552
Child Care Partnership	\$ 968,096	\$ 1,148,539
*CACFP	\$ 17,532	\$ 26,202
*ABC	\$ 3,984	\$ 21,811
Private Funding	\$ 5,208	\$ 10,031
Parent Co-Pays	\$ 5,208	\$ 10,031
Total:	\$ 994,820	\$ 1,206,583
*CACFP - Child and Adult Care Food Program		
*ABC - ABC Childcare Program		

Health Services	CCP	EHS
Children Served With Disabilities	13 (10%)	23 (11%)
Children Served With Medical Home	129 (100%)	200 (100%)
Children with Health Insurance	100%	75 (36%)
Children with Dental Home	105 (81%)	130 (65%)
Pregnant Women Who Received Dental Services	n/a	10%
Children Up to Date on Immunizations	95%	86%
Pregnant Women Rec'd Post-Natal EHS Visit within 14 Days	n/a	100%
Health Services Advisory Meetings	2	

- All parents, who identified themselves as smokers, participated in a Smoking Cessation survey and received information on cessation.
- All parents participated in a weight management class.



First Steps successfully managed two Early Head Start programs in the 2016-2017 program year.

The following Childcare Partnerships participate in the programs:

- **Traditional EHS:** SCSDDB – Kelly's Kids, Woodruff Primary, Kings and Queens, Roy C. Henderson and the Early Learning Center.
- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (CCP):** The Sunshine House, Early Learning Center, Mother Goose and Abundant Blessings

Revised Performance Standards & Curriculum Fidelity Team were initiated this year.

By the Numbers

16,891 CACFP meals were served to traditional **EHS** children in 2016-17

22,889 CACFP meals were served to **EHS-CCP** children in 2016-17.

EHS Parents read to their children a total of **1053.25** hours this year!
CCP Families read to their children a total of **215** hours



EHS and CCP Families participated in 1631 home visits.

Early Head Start Federal Review & Audit Results

Results Audit

The A133 Single Audit of 2015-2016 was completed with no material findings and was filed with the Federal Clearinghouse in March 2017.

Results Federal Review

The triennial review was held January 6-10, 2014. South Carolina First Steps to Spartanburg County was found noncompliant for Part 1306- Head Start Staffing Requirements and Program Options- Grantees implementing a home-based program option must: maintain an average caseload of 10-12 families per home visitor with a maximum caseload of 12 families for any individual home visitor. The agency created a Home-Based Program Option Compliance Plan which addressed and corrected the staffing problem which was sent to Atlanta in April 2014. A letter was received from Ann Linehan, Acting Director, Office of Head Start in August stating that the information provided to ACF was sufficient to close the previously identified findings.

Community Referrals!!

- **EHS received 631**
- **CCP received 115**

Staff provided support and follow-up regarding family's receipt and satisfaction with referral services.

Socialization Activities

- **EHS: 65** parents & children attended **25** events in the library, park or an apple farm!

Parent Engagement Activities

Families received training and education throughout the year on topics mandated by EHS and based upon community needs.

- **EHS Families: 6039** parent engagement events
- **CCP Families: 653** parent engagement events

Training topics included: child health, mental health and nutrition, parenting, budgeting, pedestrian safety and school readiness.



Quality Counts



QualityCounts
recognizing excellence in early care & education

Quality Counts serves *more than 50% of the eligible child care programs* in Spartanburg County. Quality Counts, through an education oversight grant, is working with nine 4K classrooms in Spartanburg School Districts 3 and 7.

Quality Counts Program Information

What is Quality Counts?

Quality Counts is an evidence-based initiative that uses a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework to improve the quality in early care and education programs. Quality Counts began as a pilot in January 2012 and went to full implementation in July 2013.

What is the Goal of Quality Counts?

Quality Counts is a **quality enhancement strategy designed to raise and sustain the level of quality in early care and education programs with the goal that all children will arrive at school better** prepared for school success.

Who is Participating?

Quality Counts is open to all early care and education centers who are licensed, registered, or approved by DSS. Approximately **52%** of the eligible programs in Spartanburg County are participating.

Quality Counts Celebrates 5 Years

On March 15, 2017 Quality Counts 5 Year Celebration was held at the Mary Black Foundation. The event celebrated and recognized more than 36 child care directors who have made a commitment to building and sustaining quality learning environments. Dr. John Stockwell, Executive Director for Spartanburg Academic Movement, had a powerful presentation for the QC Directors. He not only praised the efforts of Quality Counts centers but shared the importance of early care and education and the vital role it plays in creating a healthy community.

Barbara Manoski, Director Quality Counts

Spartanburg County First Steps

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www.1steps.org

Quality Counts Partners

Quality Counts is a partnership between the Mary Black Foundation and Spartanburg County First Steps. Public-private partnerships are essential to the success of Quality Counts. These partnerships support the credibility and visibility of Quality Counts in the community.

Palmetto Leadership Academy

Amber James (Boiling Springs Child Care), Cyndie Cooper (Learning Years), Felicia Spurgeon-Norris (Creative Kids Learning), Melissa Boone (Maximum Child Learning Center), Michelle Brittain (Miss Tammy's Little Learning Center – Landrum), Joyce Ruth (Legacy Christian School), Linda Lawson (Spartanburg Regional Ida Thompson Child Development Center), and Tammy Edwards (My House Day Care) have been chosen for the first Palmetto Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is a 4 month initiative that is designed to increase the knowledge and leadership capacity of child care directors and early learning administrators. Research shows that strong leadership in early care and education programs is directly related to building and sustaining quality care.

Funding By the Numbers

Quality Counts		
Funding Source	FY1516	FY1617
State Funding	\$ 308,268	\$ 314,557
South Carolina First Steps	\$ 308,268	\$ 314,557
Federal Funding	\$ -	\$ -
Local Private	\$ 208,992	\$ 225,174
Mary Black Foundation	\$ 208,992	\$ 225,174
Total:	\$ 517,260	\$ 539,731

Quality Counts Community Impact



United Way Partnership Benefits Quality Counts Center

In May of 2017 **Quality Counts** was chosen by Leadership Spartanburg, a program of the United Way of the Piedmont, to be the recipient of a hands-on community improvement project.

Abundant Blessings, one of 36 Quality Counts programs, was chosen for a "makeover". The 5 member team from

to receive a "book center

Leadership Spartanburg toured the 4K classroom and met with the director, Markesha Jackson to hear her wishes. Spartanburg Leadership donated books, paint, a bookshelf, a cozy rug, baskets, a lamp, and a sofa to transform the book area. They also painted the walls in the book area a soft shade of green. The transformation encouraged children to play in the book center and prompted Markesha to repaint her entire center. The project was a win for all!

Book Center Before

Book Center After

Quality Counts Doubles Participation in "2017 Summer Slide Into Reading Program"

The second year for the Summer Slide Into Reading program was a huge success. The number of participating centers doubled from last year. **Quality Counts** partnered with **Scholastic Books** and chose fun books like the *Interrupting Chicken* and *How do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* for 3 and 4 year olds to enjoy during the summer months. The 8 week program challenged Quality Counts classrooms to read more than 1400 minutes. Parents could turn in reading sheets from home that counted toward the classroom total. The classrooms met their goal and collectively read 126,866! More than 500 three and four year olds participated. Just one more way to help our youngest learners get ready for school!

Quality Counts by the Numbers

- ✓ Child Care Providers Served 501
- ✓ Number of Children enrolled in QC classrooms 2403
- ✓ Number of TA Visits Provided 722

Professional Development is Foundational in Building Quality

Quality Counts offered more than **100 hours of professional development** to participating child care providers. The training calendar is developed every 6 months after the Quality Counts Team studies trends and assessment results to determine the needs of providers. During the year **Jessica Flowers presented 14.5 hours of *Conscious Discipline***, and **Paula Udell presented 12 hours of *Creative Curriculum***. A professional development highlight was a special evening of training on ***Outdoor Learning Environments*** by **Mary Mackenzie from Surry, England**. The Quality Counts team also provided training for programs to meet their specific needs.

Nurse-Family Partnership

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

Program Description

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP (NFP) IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship — **every dollar invested in NFP can yield more than five dollars in return.**

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good, preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

Nurse Family Partnership		
Funding Source	FY1516	FY1617
State Funding	\$ -	\$ -
South Carolina First Steps	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funding	\$ 368,829	\$ 269,488
Children's Trust Fund of SC	\$ 368,829	\$ 269,488
Local Private	\$ 368,829	\$ 24,012
Duke Endowment	\$ 339,229	\$ -
United Way of the Piedmont	\$ 29,600	\$ 24,012
Total:	\$ 737,658	\$ 293,500

Risk Factor Profile:

% Single Mothers	88.7
% < HS Diploma	59.7

Spartanburg County First Steps

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Phone- 864-327-4900
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Why NFP Works

NFP is supported by the most extensive research foundation of any maternal and child health program. Three randomized controlled trials in 1997, 1988 and 1994 - which are still being examined today for long-term impact – show consistently proven results in the areas of **improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased intervals between births, increased material employment, and improved school**

Program Results 2009-2016

Spartanburg County NFP by the Numbers

- ✓ 613 Clients served
- ✓ 440 Babies Born to Program
- ✓ 75% moms initiating breastfeeding.
- ✓ Premature Birth rate 8.9%
- ✓ 98% of children immunized
- ✓ 9.5% Subsequent pregnancies

Thank you to our partners!

DHEC Region 2
Spartanburg Regional Hospital Systems
United Way of the Piedmont
Congregational Nursing Program
Spartanburg Regional Home Care
Spartanburg County First Steps
SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
The Duke Endowment
Children's Trust of South Carolina



In Spartanburg County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Home Health Division and Spartanburg County First Steps serves as Fiscal Manager and hosts the Community Advisory Board.



Getting Children Ready for School

Early Learning ... A Priority in Spartanburg

In collaboration to learn from each other and help change a community of learners, Spartanburg County School District Seven set as a priority an early learning center concept in the Park Hills community.

Principal Wanda Owens-Jackson said ... *"It will help us to get on one chord, as far as serving our early learners. We'll be able to pool our resources and make this a wonderful experience for our early learners."*

Over 20 partnerships were formed to make this early education effort possible including Spartanburg First Steps Early Head Start, the Mary Black Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, ReGenesis Community Health Center, Silver Hill United Methodist Church, Spartanburg County Adult Education Program, Spartanburg County Foundation, Spartanburg Housing Authority, Spartanburg Regional Foundation and others.

2016-2017 Spartanburg County First Steps Partnership Board

Name	Position	Board Category
Kim Ashby	Spartanburg County School District Two	School District Representative
Terrill Banks	Former Early Head Start Parent	Parent
Tamara Cook	USC Upstate Nursing Professor	Healthcare Provider
Loreta Dylgieri	SC School for the Deaf and Blind	Early Education
Wanda Fowler	Middle Tyger Community Center, ED. Retired	School District Representative
Carolyn Gibson	Legislative Appointee	State Apointee
Clarisa Giles	Nurse Family Partnership, Director	Healthcare Provider
Amy Goulding	Attorney – 7 th Circuit Solicitor's Office	Attorney
Ava Hughes	Arts Education Director/Chapman Cultural Center	Business
Dr. Susan Little	Spartanburg County School District Three	School District Representative
Sarah Love	Childcare, Early Childhood Development	Children, Early Childhood
Kim McAbee	Spartanburg County School District Four	School District Representative
Leverne McBeth	Spartanburg County Library	Library Services
Bob Page	Early Childhood Education	Retired Principal
Terry Pruitt	Spartanburg County School District Seven	School District Representative
Anna Strom, CPA	McAbee, Talbot, Halliday (CPA)	Fiscal – Required by EHS

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First Steps is the lead agency for BabyNet, South Carolina's early intervention system for children under 3. Parents of children 0-2 years old with disabilities or suspected developmental delays should contact their local BabyNet office to schedule an evaluation.

Local BabyNet Office: Serving Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union

Location:

S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind
355 Cedar Springs Road
Spartanburg, SC 29302

Lead Supervisor: Melissa Swann

Office: 864.591.8645
Cell: 864.360.4102
Main Telephone Line: 864-591-8641

BabyNet is South Carolina's interagency early intervention system for infants and toddlers under three years of age with developmental delays, or who have conditions associated with developmental delays.

BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays with the professional resources available within the community. Services are provided in everyday routines, activities and places relevant to the life of the family. BabyNet is funded and regulated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and managed through South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.

Anyone (a parent, doctor, caregiver, teacher or friend) can make a referral by the number listed below. The earlier a baby or toddler receives help, the better!

To make a referral or to get more information call [1-877-621-0865](tel:1-877-621-0865) or send an email to babynet@scfirststeps.org for assistance



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
- (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 can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

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

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