



- Parents as Teachers
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Training
- Child Care Scholarships
- Early Intervention & Referral

# Annual Report

2017-2018



**OUR VISION:**

Every Hampton County child will be prepared for success in school.

## Get Your Paws on Board and Shine With Success

We are proud to be able to continue serving the wonderful citizens of Hampton County with our multiple services. Our Parents as Teachers program gives support to parents who want to engage in their child's development and prepare them for school and life success. Through community support and strong advocacy, First Steps has been able to give books and provide educational guidance to our children and families of the Parents as Teachers program in helping introduce strong early literacy skills. Our Countdown to Kindergarten program, which was implemented Summer 2017, was highly praised by parents who participated. We feel that programs like these and the others we implement are pivotal in getting children ready for kindergarten success and beyond.

Over the years, everyone in the community has been impacted by Hampton County First Steps in some way. Together, with collaborating agencies such as Hampton School Districts 2, Hampton County DSS, Hampton County DHEC and Family Solutions of the Lowcountry, we look to find resolution to our community's most imperative issues. This collaboration and extension of services will help to ensure lasting changes in our community. On behalf of myself, Board Chair, and our Executive Director, we are honored to be a part of the significant strides that we continue to make in our community with the programs of Hampton County First Steps. We look forward to the many more continuing years of commitment to providing our community with the resources to succeed.



Board Chair, Valaree C. Smith as Sista Suess, Cat in the Hat during our Read Across America celebration collaboration with Hampton County Library.

*Valaree C. Smith, Board Chair*

*Dwana Doctor, Executive Director*

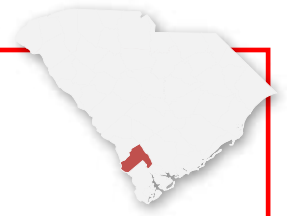
*Victoria Powell, Program Educator*

## OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, Hampton County First Steps helps SC families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.





Find Hampton County First Steps:





## THE NEED

School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Hampton County.

How are Hampton County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
<b>1046</b> are under age 5	<b>8</b> attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	<b>8</b> licensed child care centers
<b>32%</b> live in poverty	<b>47</b> attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	<b>5</b> licensed group/family homes
<b>15.5%</b> of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	<b>137</b> 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	<b>33%</b> participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
<b>45%</b> Babies born to mothers with less adequate prenatal care	<b>38</b> 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	<b>4</b> providers are rated B or higher by <b>ABC Quality</b>
<b>31%</b> of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	<b>20</b> were served by 	<b>56</b> families received assistance with affording child care last year
<i>Kids Count data provided by:</i> 	<i>Data provided by:</i> 	

## THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Hampton County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- 1.** To increase public awareness and financial/in-kind support of the programs and services of Hampton County First Steps in the local community.
- 2.** To increase the reach of programs and services of Hampton County first Steps in order to serve more children and families in the community
- 3.** To improve coordination with other state and community level entities in delivering services to families, referrals, fundraising and recruiting for programs, etc.

## THE IMPACT

**In 2017-18, Hampton County First Steps provided:**

- ✓ **29 children and 11 adults with intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through our Parents As Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten programs.
- ✓ **17 staff** working in **4** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of approximately 150 children ages 0-5 in their care**
- ✓ financial assistance to help **31 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school through our **Child Care Scholarships**.
- ✓ **726 books** to **spark the love of reading** for children through Parents As Teachers, CTK and Early Intervention & Referral

# School Readiness Outcomes

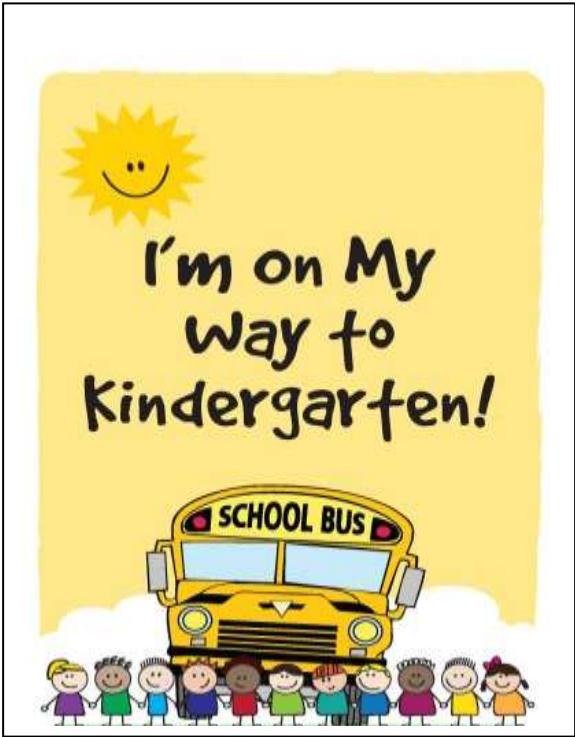
## What is the KRA?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina’s newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

HAMPTON DISTRICT ONE (148 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	37%	26%	33%
Language&Literacy	22%	40%	39%
Mathematics	21%	51%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	35%	24%	28%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>33%</b>

HAMPTON DISTRICT TWO (44 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	48%	23%	30%
Language&Literacy	27%	36%	36%
Mathematics	34%	50%	16%
Physical Dev&WB	39%	14%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>25%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>



- 1. Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- 2. Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
- 3. Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
- 4. Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

## What is Hampton County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Hampton County First Steps is dedicated to improving Kindergarten Readiness Assessment scores for Hampton County. We added the Countdown to Kindergarten program as a way to introduce to parents the skills that children need when they enter school. It is our desire to discuss the investments necessary to support early childhood development to improve kindergarten readiness. We aim to provide opportunities that will increase a better understanding of brain development and social emotional health, increase awareness of the availability of mental health resources, and continue to promote the importance of home visits starting at prenatal and birth.

# 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

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

60% ... live in poverty  
 50% ... 3 or more risk factors  
 100% ... single parents working/attending school

*I am happy to know that HCFS provides these assessments. My child was well on track but at least I would have known if he wasn't.*  
 Thank you Ms. Victoria!

Amanda L.



"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."

## EI&R by the Numbers 2017-18

Children Served	25
Materials Distributed	20
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	0

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

- ✓ Screened 31 children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred 8 families to community resources after screening indicated need

## Thank you to our EI&R partners!

Fennell Early Childhood Pilot Program  
 Hampton County Child Care Centers  
 Hampton County Department of Social Services

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Early Identification and Referral meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



**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

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

100% ... live in poverty  
50% ... didn't graduate from high school  
25% ... were teen parents



A few of our wonderful families and Victoria Powell, Parent Educator on a field trip to the zoo in Columbia, SC.

*My daughter and I really, really enjoy the visits from Ms. Powell! She can't wait to see what's in the bag! 😊*

Sherrita B.

## PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	11
Children Served	14
Total Home Visits	240
Hours Spent Serving Families	268

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 21 home visits per family (Parenting Home Visit Intensity Report, Avg. Number of Visits)
- ✓ Identified and addressed 7 potential developmental delays and made 8 connections for families to services such as employment, housing assistance and adult education.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices by increasing parent -child interaction using KIPS
- ✓ Improved literacy skills activities from PAT lessons, ACIRI assessment and through distributing 278 books to PAT children and families

## Thank you to our PAT partners!

Hampton School District One Parenting  
Hampton County Library  
Family Solutions of the Lowcountry

## Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# 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.

*I thoroughly enjoyed the training. Even though I am a home daycare, I still like learning new things.*  
 Mrs. Newton

**Training Sponsored by  
 Hampton County First Steps, 2017-18**

Topic:	Sessions:
The Three Avenues of Leadership	One Session
Planning With the End in Mind	One Session
Developing a Curriculum to Provide Maximum Opportunities	Two Sessions
Curriculum for Outdoor Learning	One Session
Planning for Positive Guidance	One Session



**Top Picture:** Participants enjoying themselves at TEAM Lowcountry 2018 Early Childhood Conference. **Bottom Picture:** Child care directors and staff engaging in discussion with Certified Trainer, Ella Mack.

## Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	43
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	24
Number of Training Sessions Offered	6


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

- ✓ 17 early childhood staff with high quality training , impacting 8 providers and 150 children
- ✓ 22 hours of certified training and 0 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 4 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

## Thank you to our Training partners!

- SC Resource & Referral
- SC-CCCD
- Peace Project
- Hampton County COA

Evidence of Effectiveness:  
 Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Hampton 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.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... single parents in need of services
- 25% ... babies born with low birth weight

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.

Our partnership integrates scholarships with our Early Intervention and Referral program as well as our Parents as Teachers program for those that qualify.

*As a single mother, I am beyond grateful for HCFS Child Care Scholarships program. It has allowed me to work and continue my education to become a registered nurse!*

Jonique M.



### Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	31
Providers Served	4


- This year, our Scholarship program:**
- ✓ Provided 31 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
  - ✓ Identified and addressed 4 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
  - ✓ Made 7 connections for families to services such as employment resources, family activities and others
  - ✓ Supported 4 small businesses in Hampton County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

### Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- Hampton County Department of Social Services
- WIOA/WIA
- Children’s Keepers Child Care

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership’s Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence- based programs: EI&R







**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 2017

Children Served	15
Families Served	15
Home/School Visits	82

*\*CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*



*As a former HCFS Parents as Teachers client, I had no hesitation enrolling my daughter in the Countdown to Kindergarten program!*

Shayla Campbell

## This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% parent survey participation in its first year of implementation.
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 95%

## Thank you to our CTK partners!

Hampton County School District One  
Kaplan Early Learning Company  
EdVenture Children's Museum  
First Book

Like us on Facebook!  
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

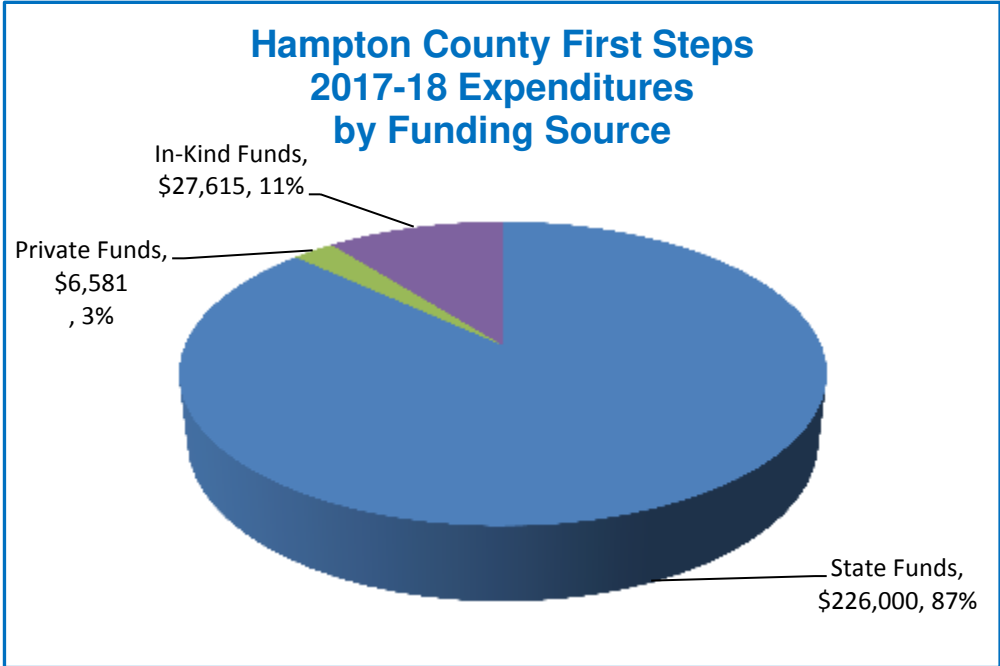


## Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an *evidence-informed* program.



# Financial Impact



**Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$260,240**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18\*: 15%**

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

Countdown to Kindergarten	\$7,520	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,520	3%
Early Identification Referral	\$24,047	\$0	\$0	\$1,194	\$25,241	10%
Child Care Training	\$18,000	\$0	\$1,400	\$2,086	\$21,486	8%
Child Care Scholarships	\$87,500	\$0	\$3,500	\$18,200	\$109,200	42%
Indirect Program	\$6,974	\$0	\$0	\$1,154	\$8,128	3%
Scholarship Initiatives	\$15,771	\$0	\$0	\$1,036	\$16,807	6%
Administrative Support	\$18,878	\$0	\$0	\$1,022	\$19,900	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$226,043</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,582</b>	<b>\$27,615</b>	<b>\$260,240</b>	

*Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018*

**Since inception, Hampton County First Steps has leveraged \$4,332,831 from sources outside of state government. That's 22 cents for every state dollar.**

# Thank you supporters!

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

## In-Kind Support

Hampton County Council on Aging  
Hampton County Library  
Antauwn Wade  
SC Department of Social Services  
Sheena Williams  
SheWill -Atlanta GA  
AmeriFleet  
Code92  
Parker, Murdaugh, Eltrozth, Law Firm  
Pearline Heyward  
Hopeful Horizons  
Tiffany Brantley

## Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$200,000  
(through South Carolina First Steps)  
SC Child Care Career Development : \$2,000



## How your support helps children in Hampton County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$75 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$450 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

## Save the Date!

December 1, 2018

Hampton County First Steps Annual Meeting Health and Wellness Kids Fair  
For more information follow our Facebook page: Hampton County First Steps & PAT

TEAM Lowcountry 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Conference – Beaufort, South Carolina  
April 2019

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

## Making Big Strides in the Community

Delta Sigma Theta Health Symposium

Hampton County First Steps along with other agencies participated in a Health Symposium sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The event featured great information, health screenings, free food and drinks. HCFS set up a booth and gave out books, pamphlets and other helpful goodies. The event brought out a huge crowd of all ages!



## A Success Story from a Family

J. McBride walked into the Hampton County First Steps office seeking child care assistance. She explained that she was working part-time and going to school majoring in Nursing. Ms. McBride completed the application but encountered some “bumps in the road” trying to obtain the information needed from her school. However, she did not let this discourage her and diligently came back with the needed paperwork. She explained how important this was to her in order for her young daughter to one day understand that you cannot give up. She also expressed her passion for education and being a nurse but she could not afford to pay child care and do both. In May 2018, Ms. McBride proudly announced that she would be having her pinning ceremony to receive her nursing degree. Hampton County First Steps is very proud of her and honored to have been able to help her as she continues her quest to become a registered nurse.

## Infant/Toddler Summer Series



Summer time can be an adjustment for parents as well as children. In response, HCFS along with the Hampton County Library provided a series of summer workshops. “Big Work/Little Hands” and “Bubbles, Bubbles Everywhere” were just a few of the workshops held for infants and toddlers and their parents. “Big Work/Little Hands” focused on working with manipulatives to allow for fine motor development activities such as working with PlayDoh. “Bubbles, Bubbles Everywhere” focused on physical development as well as fine motor. What kid doesn’t love blowing and chasing bubbles? The kids and parents loved it!



# What is First Steps?

**At the state level and in every county**, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina’s children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child’s first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

## First Steps Goals

- (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.

### First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

**Local portals** connecting preschool children and families to services

**Conveners** of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

**Champions** of the importance of school readiness to our children’s future.

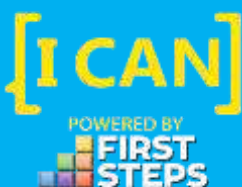


for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:

**scfirststeps.org**

for Hampton County First Steps:

**www.scfirststeps.org/hampton**



[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.

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