

BEAUFORT COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Community Education

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

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

www.beaufortfirststeps.com

703 Bladen St. Beaufort, SC 29902 ♦ (843) 379-7837 ♦ bwashing@scfirststeps.org

Board Chair Message

Commitment and Dedication: Together We Can Make a Difference

Beaufort County First Steps Board continues to collaborate with other entities within the community to ensure children are ready to succeed upon school entry. We celebrate the impact we have made this year toward obtaining our local goals and staying consistent with our mission.

This report will illustrate the various initiatives and partnerships that exist between Beaufort County First Steps and local agencies that support the development of children and families. It certainly is a pleasure to be apart of an organization that embraces the importance of how young children's earliest experiences and environments set the stage for future development and success in school and life. Last but not least, I applaud the staff for their commitment and dedication to ensuring the provision of high quality services within the community.



Julia Burnes
Board Chair

FIRST STEPS STAFF

Betty Washington, Executive Director
Betty Ford, Parent Educator (Retired June, 2018)
Lucette Brown, Parent Educator
Sheryl Newton, Early Child Educator
Danette Vernon, Parent Educator (July, 2018)

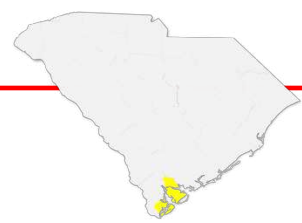
OUR MISSION:

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

Find Beaufort First Steps:







We get children ready.



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 Beaufort County.

How are Beaufort 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?
9,964 are under age 5	104 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	46 licensed child care centers
19.2% live in poverty	266 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	30 licensed group/family homes
13.2% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	551 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	30% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
147 founded investigations for child abuse and neglect	423 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	14 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
34.10% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	5 were served by 	342 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 Beaufort County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- To increase the reach of Beaufort County First Steps program services for children and families throughout the community.
- To identify and recruit board members who are committed to the mission and vision of the organization.
- To increase the presence of the Beaufort County First Steps Partnership and services in the community as a local portal for early childhood services as measured by connections made to referral agencies and by tracking the number of clients making use of local resources.
- Continued efforts of being a Community Convener to ensure all programs funded through Beaufort County First Steps are working collaboratively toward a common goal; services to families and children.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Beaufort County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **28 children** and **23 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 (**Parents as Teachers Program**)
- ✓ **111 staff** working in **7** child care providers, and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 543 children ages 0-5 in their care (Child Care Quality Enhancement)**
- ✓ **4149 books** to spark the love of reading for **716 children (Parents as Teachers, Child Care Quality, Community Education)**
- ✓ **688 children** and **767 adults** were impacted by Beaufort County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.
- ✓ **419 child care professionals** received training from **68 childcare facilities** impacting **2545 children** 0-5 years of age

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:

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOLS (1600 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	34%	28%	38%
Language & Literacy	23%	44%	33%
Mathematics	28%	40%	32%
Physical Dev & WB	32%	23%	45%
OVERALL	28%	39%	33%

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%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%

- 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

Highlights:

- ✓ Children in Beaufort County demonstrated a higher level of understanding in Mathematics as compared to other children across the state.
- ✓ More than 75% of the children assessed in Beaufort County were approaching or demonstrated readiness in Language and Literacy.

What is Beaufort County First Steps doing to improve KRA results

Beaufort County First Steps assesses progress toward advancing a high quality, comprehensive, accountable system of early care and education for children beginning with a healthy birth. First Steps uses validated data sources from community agencies and provide a baseline to measure return on investment in the use of public resources to improve the quality of early care and education settings and better outcomes for children. Additional focus will be placed on providing more intense quality trainings and other resources for childcare professionals serving young children in Beaufort County. First Steps staff will provide follow-up technical assistance on use of materials with an emphasis on literacy and learning materials that promotes physical and social development in young children. Families are encouraged to take advantage of resources like the lending library at the First Steps office. Together in partnership with local Head Start, School District and Child Care professionals we will continue to provide needed resources to help improve KRA results in Beaufort County.

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

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

100% ... live in poverty
74% ... single parent households
13% ... low maternal education



Mrs. Brown always provides good parenting tips to help our family!

Thank you!

"Thanks to my Parent Educator, I have been able to have more one on one time with my child to read various books that are given to us from the First Steps program. I have also been able to use different parenting strategies introduced by my Parent Educator to guide my child's development."

Quote taken from family parenting reflection

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	23	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	291	
Hours Spent Serving Families	396.23	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS)	KIPS .93	ACIRI Adult
Average gain, Adult Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI)		.54
		Child
		.49

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 1.81 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays, and made 277 connections for families to services such as child care, food assistance, housing, health and medical
- ✓ Improved parenting practices KIPS 3.26-4.19=+.93 difference
- ✓ Improved literacy skills ACIRI Adult 1.68-2.22=+.54 Child 1.26-1.75=+.49; **631 books** distributed to children and families

Thank you to our PAT partners!

BabyNet
Beaufort Housing
Beaufort Yacht & Sailing (provided Christmas gifts)
Beaufort/Burton Fire Department
Beaufort Jasper EOC
Beaufort County School

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2017-18

Child Care Providers Served	7
Number of TA Visits Provided	173
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	543

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
CEC; 2-3 year old room	From 3.0 to 5.83
CC; 3-4 year old room	From 4.14 to 5.66
LHCEC; 2-year-old room	From 3.83 to 5.4
CB; 2-4 year old room	From 3.72 to 4.49
KC; 3-4 year old room	From 4.0 to 5.0
LIPS; 1 year old room	From 3.54 to 5.00
PEL; 3-4 year old room	From 4.29 to 6.86

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

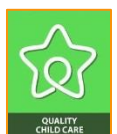
- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by 1.30 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 395 hours of technical assistance to 7 child care providers, contributing to the professional growth of 111 child care teachers and directors
- ✓ Provided \$34,930 in materials grants/stipends to participating child care providers
- ✓ Satisfaction survey completed by childcare professionals who attended childcare trainings and/or received technical assistance indicated 97% being HIGHLY satisfied with service received from the First Steps partnership

Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- SC DSS Child Care Licensing
- SC ABC Program
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- SC Inclusion
- SC PITC
- Kaplan Early Learning

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Quality Enhancement meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an *evidence-based* program.





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 am writing as a testament to the priceless services Beaufort County First Steps provides for our center and the children in the Lowcountry. We have partnered with First Steps since 2009 and have witnessed nothing less than superior knowledge and invaluable input in implementing quality care and education.”
Local Child Care Director (training evaluation)

Training Sponsored by Beaufort First Steps, 2017-18

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Program Administration	Twelve sessions
Professional Development	Two sessions
Child Growth & Development	Nine sessions
Child Guidance	Two sessions
Blood-Borne Pathogens (Health & Safety)	Seventeen sessions
Pediatric CPR & First Aid	
Curriculum	Twenty-One Sessions
Special Needs	One session



Beth Green “The Music Lady”, keeps them moving to the beat.

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	764
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	419
Number of Training Sessions Offered	64

This year, our Child Care Training program provided:

- ✓ 419 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 68 childcare facilities and 2545 children
- ✓ 30 hours of certified training hours, 38 hours of registered hours and 43 non CCCCD hours (First Aid & CPR) for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 26 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice
- ✓ 257 childcare professionals attended annual TEAM Lowcountry Conference; 31 registered sessions offered

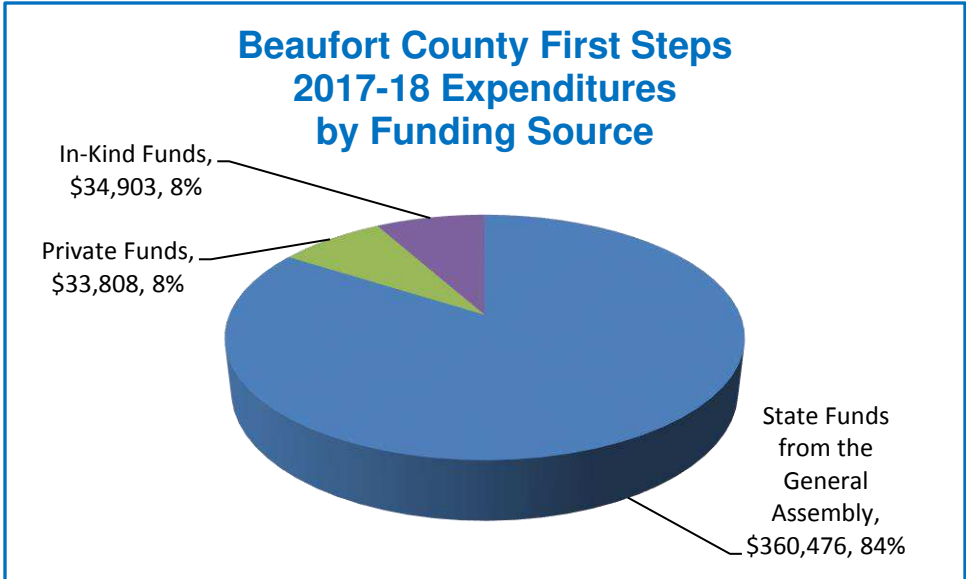
Thank you to our Training partners!

- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- Child Care Career Development (T.E.A.C.H.)
- SC PITC
- Baptist Church of Beaufort, Child Enrichment Center
- The Children’s Center Inc.
- Beaufort Early Child Coalition
- Ridgeland Baptist Child Care Ministry
- First Steps County Partnerships; Allendale, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton & Jasper (sponsors of TEAM Lowcountry Early childhood Conference)

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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

Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: 429,187.64

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 16%

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

2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$90,778	\$0	\$4,992	\$5,465	\$101,235	24%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$126,920	\$0	\$7,074	\$8,624	\$142,617	33%
Child Care Training	\$74,258	\$0	\$16,025	\$11,949	\$102,232	24%
Community Education	\$4,000	\$0	\$745	\$0	\$4,745	1%
Program Support	\$34,066	\$0	\$2,651	\$4,717	\$41,434	10%
Administrative Support	\$30,454	\$0	\$2,321	\$4,149	\$36,925	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$360,476	\$0	\$33,808	\$34,903	\$429,188	

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

Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged \$2,118,052 from sources outside of state government. That's .29 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$353,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Beaufort County Early Child Coalition: \$2,575

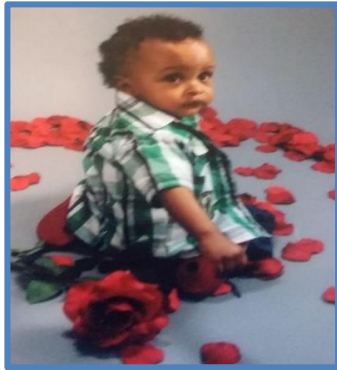
Beaufort Fund: \$10,000

Born To Read: \$3,600

Greenville Technical College: \$2,000

Mark Real Estate: \$50.00

SC BabyNet: \$9,000



Tavon still needs and gets support from his First Steps family, sadly he lost his mother 3 years ago.

In-Kind Support

- 4-Imprint
- ABC Child Care
- Baptist Church of Beaufort/ Child Enrichment
- Beaufort County School District
- Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health
- Beaufort Yacht & Sailing
- Beginnings SC
- Cancer Thrift Store of Beaufort County
- CAPA
- First Steps County partnerships; Allendale, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
- Hargray
- Kaplan Early Learning
- LCNB Properties, LLC
- Miller Swamp Baptist
- Ridgeland Baptist Child Care Ministry
- Sam's Club
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- SC Inclusion
- Staples
- Well Care; Healthy Connections
- Sandbox Museum

How your support helps children in Beaufort County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child with one book per month for one year
- ✓ \$50 helps to provide dinner for low-income families attending a monthly Parenting Group Connection meeting
- ✓ \$65 provides a car seat to keep children safe on the highway
- ✓ \$500 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

Please send your tax deductible donations to:

Beaufort County First Steps, 703 Bladen St. St., Beaufort, SC 29902

Save the Date!

Parenting Group Connection Meeting

November 7, 2018; 6:00, 2001 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC 29902
 December 19, 2018; 6:00, 2001 Boundary St., Beaufort, SC 29902

APRIL (Child Abuse and Prevention month)

April 08-12, 2019 Week of the Young Child
 April 11-12, 2019 TEAM Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference

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

Photo from The Children's Center, Hilton Head Island
Beaufort First Steps Quality Enhancement site
State Office of First Steps 4-K provider

Support for the First Steps Organization

Education Director, St. Helena

Being a Non-profit organization we have limited budget for classroom materials, resources for teachers, and continuing education opportunities for our staff. Beaufort County First Steps has made it possible for our children to benefit from a brighter education, and to have access to a variety of learning materials. Through their technical assistance service and unwavering dedication, our teachers are taught the necessary skills, and provided with the education they need, to be successful leaders. By providing our participating teachers with no-cost trainings and workshops, the teachers experience higher learning, which otherwise, may not have been accessible to them. In addition, through Beaufort County First Steps, the staff as a whole is provided with continued education at low-cost. Beaufort County First Steps is an organization that has supported many of the child care facilities in our community and I believe wholeheartedly for the past sixteen years that has made a BIG difference. We continue to extend our support and gratitude to the First Steps organization.



Meeting the Critical Needs for the Child Care Community

On behalf of the staff and leadership of the Wee Care Child Development Center we send choice greetings. As we were reflecting yesterday upon the partnership we have enjoyed with the First Steps Program our hearts were warmed by your assistance and participation in the training and growth of the children for whom we administer care. Our staff has grown in their capacities and our children have been prepared for their future development because of the strategic partnership. The proof of this vital and effective program is being revealed each year as a new group of students leave this facility and enter public school programs prepared to continue their educational journey.

Thank you again for all you do for the children of South Carolina. May you continue this enormous work and meet the critical need in child care facilities throughout our region and state.

E. Blocker, Center Director



First Steps Partnership Board

The Beaufort County First Steps Partnership Board are innovative individuals who come together to form a professional body to provide oversight of the First Steps partnership. The Board is made up of gifted local leaders who are strong advocates for ALL children in Beaufort County. This diverse body has served unselfishly, empowering staff, engaging with local business leaders and policy makers in the community to ensure our children receive the quality care they deserve. The board helps to manage resources allocated to the partnership for providing for the needs of young children. Each Board Member serves with dedication to make a strong case for investing in early childhood education. They work to ensure we all do our part in helping our children achieve goals to be better prepared for the future.

Beaufort County First Steps embraces the future with great expectation and continues to forge partnerships that create educational opportunities and experiences that enhance the lives of children and families. We are determined to make a positive change and we will do this work together as a community; one child-one family at a time.

Beaufort County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Julia Burnes, Chair	Education Manager/Beaufort Jasper Head Start	Head Start Representative
Ashley Hutchison, Vice Chair	Early Child Director/Beaufort County School	School District representative
James Williams, Treasurer	Executive Director/Beaufort Jasper EOC	Non-Profit
Nan Krueger (resigned)	Nurse/Beaufort Pediatrics	Health Care Provider
Leroy Gillard (resigned)	Executive Director/Beaufort Jasper EOC	Transportation Provider
Tonya Allen-Jenkins	Education Director/Penn Center In.	Child Care, ECD/ED Provider
Ronald Manyin	Arts in Schools Coordinator, Friends of Music	Non-Profit Organization
Nancy Priester	County Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
York Glover	Retired/Clemson Extension	Faith Community
Marilyn C. Jenkins	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
Kathleen M. McTeer	Librarian/Beaufort County Library	County Library Representative
Ernestine Morris	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
Madie Orage-Green	Program Coordinator I	DHEC Representative
Dr. Jean Murray (resigned)	Retired Educator	Family Ed., Training & Support
Lauren F.-Boggs (resigned)	Educator, Beaufort County School	Pre-K Primary Education
Orlandor Lewis	Director/Beaufort Jasper EOC	Family Education and Training Support
Kelly Zytynski	Baptist Church of Beaufort	Pre-K Primary Education

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 Beaufort County First Steps:

www.beaufortfirststeps.com



[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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