



Parents as Teachers

Early Identification and Referral

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

**Child Care Quality
Enhancement**

Annual Report

2017-2018







OUR VISION:

Every child in Berkeley
County will enter
kindergarten safe, healthy,
ready to succeed, and
eager to learn.



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 Berkeley County.

How are Berkeley 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?
14195 are under age 5	32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	72 licensed child care centers
9214 live in poverty	353 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	38 licensed group/family homes
11.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	727 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	26% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
38% Of babies born to single mothers	405 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	15 providers are rated B or higher by A B C Quality
34% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	73 were served by 	21 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 Berkeley County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- 1.** Strengthen families of young children through in home visitations offering child development education, parenting education, and service referrals.
- 2.** Enhance the health of young children through nurse-family partnerships, early detection screenings, and referrals for young children with developmental needs.
- 3.** Improve the quality of child care services in our community and improve and facilitate access to child care.
- 4.** Serve as a leading advocate for the education and health needs of young children and the support needs of their families and teachers in Berkeley County.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Berkeley County First Steps provided:

- ✓ 98 children and 82 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 program
- ✓ 8 staff working in 5 child care providers, licensed childcare centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of children ages 0-5 in their care.
- ✓ financial assistance to help 21 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school
- ✓ 1031 books to spark the love of reading for children

School Readiness Outcomes

Berkeley County (2,360 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	24%	47%
Language Literacy	25%	44%	31%
Mathematics	32%	43%	25%
Physical Dev&WB	29%	23%	48%
OVERALL	26%	40%	34%

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

What is Berkeley County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

As the focus on readiness, retention, and graduation has become increasingly emphasized, we are building shared understandings about what this means and the ways our schools, parents, and community can work together to ensure that our children are school ready. We are uniting families, programs, and resources together with our school district, partnerships, and community organizations to increase awareness about the importance of early childhood and building eager learners so all of our children can succeed in school and in life.

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:

- ✓ Is a collaboration with PASOs of South Carolina and Berkeley County First Steps
- ✓ Incorporates the PASOs Community Health Worker (Promotor) model to build trust and best meet the needs of the Latino Community
- ✓ 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

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

100%	of families served live in poverty.
100%	of families speak a different language at home.
55%	of families served are recent immigrant or refugee families.
41%	of the child served had at least one development delay.

I am very thankful for PASOs and all the help they offered me.

-Amanda



Abigail Santiago (Community Health Worker) completing an ASQ-3 screening at home with the mother.

EI&R by the Numbers 2017-18

Children Served	27
Materials Distributed	124
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	6

This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- ✓ 97 community members were reached in outreach events with information about child development and the importance of screening
- ✓ 27 referrals made to families for community resources after screening indicated need
- ✓ 4 families reported accessing the library system after learning about the importance of early literacy

Thank you to our EI&R partners!

MUSC University Pediatrics Moncks Corner
La Tienda San Juan
Berkeley County Library

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Leadership Matters



Strategic Plan Vision 2020

Our agency has evolved since 1999, continuously impacting thousands of Berkeley children, parents and educators. We are building upon our strengths, which are providing quality home visiting and professional development services, integrity in our governance and business practices and an innovative and collaborative approach to growth and expansion.

A key component to our success now and in the future aligns with our overarching goals:

Understanding early learning in the context of the complex systems and stakeholders that affect the five domains of whole child development from birth to age 8; The critical importance of issues of racial and cultural equity; and the role of indicators and outcomes informing and supporting communication and collaboration in traditionally fragmented field locally and statewide.

Our agency leadership is working to create a common language and understanding of high quality early care and parenting supports while fostering collaboration, and investing in data-driven change to improve outcomes for all young children in Berkeley County.

Stronger Together ~For Children,

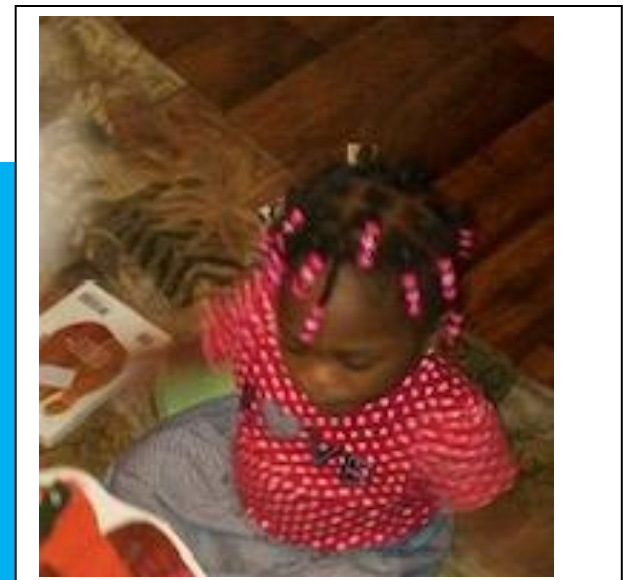
Brenda Campbell, BCFS Board Chair

Adrienne Troy-Frazier, Executive Director



OUR MISSION:

To improve the health and education of Berkeley County's youngest children so they can enter school ready to succeed and eager to learn.



Find Berkeley First Steps:



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

Berkeley County First Steps serves families in greatest need.

Among our PAT families:

96% ... live in poverty

10% ... didn't graduate from high school

6% ... were teen parents



Here's a great quote from a client!

Lakisha Pringle

"Parents as Teachers not only helps me understand the development of my child, but they also helped me obtain quality childcare, including enrolling my child into an early head start program."

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	82	
Children Served	98	
Total Home Visits	1545	
Hours Spent Serving Families	1555	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS 49%	ACIRI 50%

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 19 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 35 potential developmental delays, and made 82 connections for families to services such as medical home, adult education, and quality childcare.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices by increasing Parents' knowledge of how to meet their children's basic physical and emotional needs, to ensure proper child growth and development. Increasing Parent knowledge has led to changes in behaviors supported by observed interactions in pre and post KIPS assessments.

Thank you to our PAT partners!

Berkeley County School District

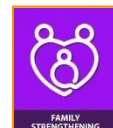
Berkeley County Library

Lowcountry Children's Museum

Parents are their child's first and best teachers.

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.

"When I go to work on Monday, I will make sure I have a positive attitude, and include every child."

"I am excited to use the Moving to Math songs in my class."

"Thank you for showing me that all children can learn, and we never stop learning ourselves."

Training Sponsored by Berkeley First Steps, 2017-18

Topic:	Sessions:
SC Infant/Toddler Guidelines	4 Modules
Compassion & Self-care for Early Childhood Professionals	1 Session
Emergency & Disaster Preparedness	1 Session
Promoting Professionalism & Ethics	1 Session
Dual Language Learners	1 Session
Teaching in Inclusive Settings & Promoting Positive Peer Play	2 Sessions
Babbles & Coos/Respecting Movement	2 Sessions
Developing a Curriculum	2 Sessions



Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	385
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	123
Number of Training Sessions Offered	14

95% of attendees felt we offered a topic that was useful to them.

98% felt their knowledge of the topic had increased as a result of participating in the training.

95% of attendees felt they would be able to apply the knowledge learned in a classroom setting.

This year, our Training program provided:

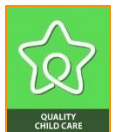
- ✓ 123 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 34 providers
- ✓ 32 hours of certified training and 3 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 50 providers with books, and classroom materials to enhance their learning environments

Thank you to our Training partners!

- Center for Child Care Career Development*
- Child Care Resource & Referral*
- Berkeley County School District*

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Berkeley 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.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... are single parent homes
- 25% ...had low maternal education
- 24% ... had developmental delays

"The vouchers helped me tremendously! I am forever grateful for this program. As a single mother with not much support, I don't know how I would have made it this far without the scholarship!"
 Michelle Brown



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.

We integrate the scholarship program with programs such as Parents As Teachers, and Nurse Family Partnership to ensure parents are receiving ongoing support and advocacy. Last year, our scholarship recipients received 227 personalized home visits.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	21
Providers Served	7

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 21 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 5 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made over 200 connections for families to services such as WIC, Medicaid, Food Assistance, Dental Services, Speech Services, Library programs, Medical homes, Berkeley Count School District, Head Start, Babynet.and many more
- ✓ Supported 7 small businesses in Berkeley County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 227 personalized home visits that were customized for the needs of each family

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- Department of Social Services
- ABC Child Care
- Our local child care providers
- Parents As Teachers

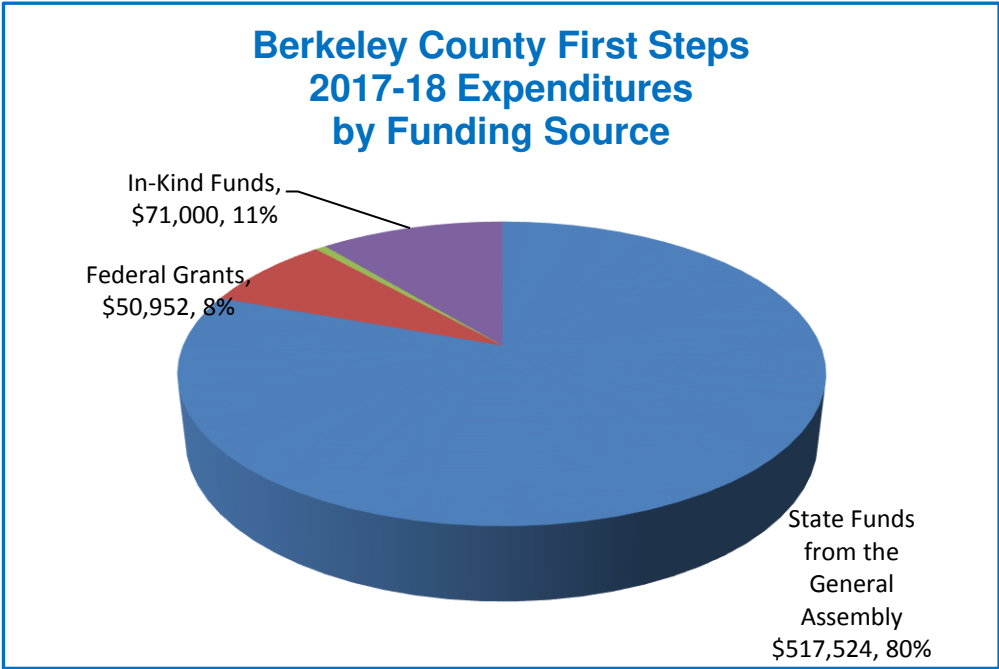
Evidence of Effectiveness:

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

Parents As Teachers



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$643,537

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 24%

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

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$265,384	\$0	\$500	\$60,000	\$325,884	51%
Early Head Start	\$19,556	\$50,952	\$0	\$0	\$70,508	11%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$30,762	\$0	\$1,576	\$0	\$32,338	5%
Child Care Training	\$24,013	\$0	\$47	\$0	\$24,060	4%
Child Care Scholarships	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$42,000	7%
Early Identification and Referral	\$49,714	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$53,714	8%
Program Support	\$66,823	\$0	\$538	\$0	\$67,361	10%
Administrative Support	\$26,272	\$0	\$1,400	\$0	\$27,672	4%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$517,524	\$50,952	\$4,061	\$71,000	\$643,537	

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

Since inception, Berkeley First Steps has leveraged \$2,144,433 from sources outside of state government. That's 22 cents for every state dollar.

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, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2017-18

Child Care Providers Served	4
Number of TA Visits Provided	36
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	67

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

Child Care Provider
St. Timothy's Four Year old room
Harvest Time Pre-K Room
House of Smiles Pre-K room
Niecy's Child Care Center

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Provided \$350 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Funded scholarships for 3 children within participating child care providers
- ✓ Provided 20 hours of DSS Certified Professional Development
- ✓ Offered 6 community based educator field trips with local STEM Partners

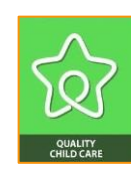


Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

- Charleston Jazz Orchestra
- Children's Museum of the Lowcountry
- Coastal Expeditions
- Lowcountry STEM Collaborative

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

State of South Carolina
(through South Carolina First Steps)
Magnolia Foundation
South Carolina Center for Child Care
Development



In-Kind Support

Berkeley County School District
ABC Child Care
MUSC
Subway
Publix
Starbucks
Charleston River Dogs
Santee Canal Park
Children's Museum of the Lowcountry
Charleston Jazz Orchestra

How your support helps children in Berkeley County:

- ✓ Parents as Teachers by providing additional educators to work in underserved regions of Berkeley, South Carolina's largest county
- ✓ Our capacity to implementing evidence-based parenting, early care and professional development programs serve the hardest to reach children, parents and providers.
- ✓ Our technology and ability to efficiently capture program data and outcomes.
- ✓ Access to services from trained and reliable consultants who can conduct program evaluation and provide technical assistance.
- ✓ Parents access to affordable, high quality child care so that they can re-enter and remain employed.

Save the Date!

Belks Fall Fundraiser-October

Grand Opening of Magnolia Garden's Children's Garden and Storywalk
November

Giving Tuesday-November

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

Berkeley Early Education and Care Collective

A community-based network created to build an integrated mental health framework to increase the socio-emotional development outcomes of children, birth to age 6, in Berkeley County, SC

Why it matters:

We Are Stronger Together

Regionally, 40% of Kindergartners are proficient in socio-emotional development and children that are Black (26%) or Latino (30%) are less likely to exhibit proficiency than their white peers (56%). In the Berkeley County School District 100% of preschool children who were suspended at least once were males and 55% were black males. Black students make up 38% of the preschool population, but over half of those suspended more than once. Latino students make up 9% of these suspensions and white students make 36%. We know that losing learning opportunities has an effect on school performance and in the tri-county region 3-in-4 children that entered Kindergarten were not proficient in vocabulary: 83% of black children, 95% of Latino children and 64% of white children. Early learning opportunities help prepare young children for school, yet only 58% of eligible 4 year olds are served by state-funded public preschool in Berkeley County.



The collective uses a collective impact approach to build on previous work and best practices that coalition partners have found successful. Community partners have been engaged around the shared community goal of all children starting school ready to learn. Our partners have and continue to work to address equity in our community:

Berkeley County First Steps-Convening agency that is committed to serving the hardest to reach children and families first and providing access to the highest quality services for kindergarten readiness.

Children's Museum of the Lowcountry-works to make STEM and learning through play accessible to rural caregivers and implements the Superstars program geared towards families of children with special needs.

YWCA of Greater Charleston-mission to empower women and eliminate racism.

Charleston Area Justice Ministry-engages a broad spectrum of the community to advocate for increased access to early childhood, affordable housing, safe policing and PBIS and restorative justice practices and programs in schools.

PASOS's- provides cultural responsive health, education and social services to the Latino community.

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

First Steps Partnership Board

OUR CORE VALUES:

Berkeley County will be a Ready Community, with Ready Educators and Ready Schools

- **Parent and Guardian Education:** Strengthening families of young children through in-home visitations offering child development education, parenting education and service referrals.
- **Healthy Children:** Enhancing the health of young children through nurse/doula family partnerships, early detection screenings and referrals for young children with developmental needs.
- **Child Care Excellence:** Improving the quality of child care services in our community and improving and facilitating access to child care.
- **Quality Education for our Children:** Serving as a leading advocate for the education and health needs of young children and the support needs of their families and teachers in Berkeley County.

Our Vision is that every child in Berkeley County will enter kindergarten safe, healthy, ready to succeed and eager to learn.

Berkeley County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Brenda Campbell	Chair	Faith based
Marina Lopez	Vice Chair	Educator/DLL
Samone Johnson	Treasurer	DSS Appointee
Stephanie Wallace	Secretary	BCSD Appointee
Sharon Fashion	Member	Berkeley County Library
Donna McQueen	Compliance officer	Attorney
Linda Fontaine	Member	Consumer
Fred Jones	Member	Business
Nakia Asby	Member	BCSD/Parent
Celine Silver	Member	NFP/DHEC Appointee
Dr. Simone Chinnis	Member	Health
Betty Presley	Member	Head Start Appointee
Shannon Watson	Member	Non Profit
Elmire Raven	Member	Non-Profit
Jane Farrell	Member	Early Educator

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 Berkeley County First Steps:

www.berkeleyfirststeps.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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Like us on Facebook: **icansc**