

CLARENDON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



## OUR VISION:

Every child in Clarendon County will be prepared for success in school!

Parents as Teachers

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

# Annual Report

2017-18



## OUR MISSION:

Clarendon County First Steps will partner with organizations within and outside of Clarendon County to leverage and maximize resources to provide quality, research-based programs and services that will prepare Clarendon County's preschool children for success in school and in life.

Web page: [scfirststeps.com/clarendon/](http://scfirststeps.com/clarendon/)

Post Office Box 426 Manning, SC 29102 ♦ Ph: (803) 433-2848 E-mail: [clarendonfs@ftc-i.net](mailto:clarendonfs@ftc-i.net)

# Director's Message

Thank you for all you do!

Within the pages that follow, you will see numbers, charts, etc. that attempt to capture and reflect all of the work Clarendon County First Steps and our partners have done towards achieving our mission “to partner with organizations within and outside of Clarendon County to leverage and maximize resources to provide quality, research-based programs and services that will prepare Clarendon County’s preschool children for success in school and in life”. Although we try to do a good job to share with you the tremendous work we do, sometimes the numbers do little to convey the depth and breadth of what we do.

This is especially true when I think about our parent educators and the tremendous work they do. In addition to having to attend and complete the necessary training sessions in order to be able to deliver PAT in accordance with National PAT standards and standards established by SC First Steps, complete various assessments required by PAT and SCFS on every family on their caseloads, document information on all of those families in various databases, attend meetings with other providers in order to make sure that families are connected with the services they need and want, etc., they do so much more than mere words and numbers could ever convey! For example, one of our parenting coordinators took the time to help one of our fathers complete a job application, prepare for a job interview, and personally help out with transportation so that he could get to and from work once he secured employment. Even amongst the most skeptical of us, there is no doubt that her help went a long way in helping him to keep the job that helped to support his family!

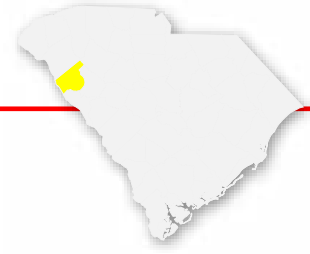
Another example is when one of our parent educators spent a great deal of time helping one of our young mothers as she experienced the highs and lows of her first pregnancy. This parent educator spent countless hours, many of which were unpaid, helping this young woman. She sat with this young mother during her prenatal appointments, coached her so that she knew the right questions to ask her physician, and helped her learn about and connect to other resources available within the community to help her and her unborn child. This parent educator was even there to hold this young mother’s hand and comfort her when she unfortunately suffered a miscarriage.

Yet another example is when parent educators push pride, judgment, embarrassment, and possible ridicule aside in order to share stories from their own lives (the good, the bad, and the ugly) in order to connect with participant families in meaningful ways in order to help them to be their better selves.

Yes, our parent educators work hard to deliver PAT in accordance with standards established by PAT National and SC First Steps, but they do more, far more for our families and children than mere words and/or numbers could ever reflect! To our parent educators, thank you for all you do!! You are simply the best!!!





**Sharon P. Williams, MPA**  
**Executive Director**

# 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 Clarendon County.

How are Clarendon 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>1,652</b> are under age 5	<b>27</b> attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	<b>8</b> licensed child care centers
<b>39.4%</b> live in poverty	<b>166</b> attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	<b>11</b> licensed group/family homes
<b>13.7%</b> of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	<b>191</b> 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	<b>37%</b> participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
<b>2.2%</b> of live births in 2016 were to mothers under 18	<b>111</b> 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	<b>3</b> providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
<b>38.6%</b> of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	<b>4</b> were served by 	<b>101</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 CLARENDON County partners, towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. To help Clarendon County's citizens understand school readiness, best practices in school readiness, and how, together, we can implement quality programs and services to ensure Clarendon County's preschool children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed;
2. To develop infrastructure that promotes, sufficiently funds, and holds accountable its efforts to promote school readiness in Clarendon County;
3. To help parents of children birth to five succeed in their role as their child's first and best teacher;
4. To expand evidence-based early literacy programs for preschool children;
5. To provide children birth to five with access to quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of families and children;
6. To provide Clarendon County's early care and education staff with training and professional development opportunities that will help them understand their role as early care and education providers so that they can provide quality early care and education experiences

## THE IMPACT

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

- ✓ Provided 86 children and 85 adults with intensive support in Parents as Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten. The programs 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.
- ✓ Provided 35 staff members working in 11 child care facilities, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support through Child Care Training and Professional Development, thereby helping them to better meet the needs of 568 children ages 0-5 in their care.
- ✓ Provided 1,910 books to 209 children to spark the love of reading through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- ✓ A total of 863 children and 112 adults were impacted by CLARENDON County First Steps' programs, resources, activities and events.

**Web page: [scfirststeps.com/clarendon/](http://scfirststeps.com/clarendon/)  
 Post Office Box 426 Manning, SC 29102 ♦ Ph: (803) 433-2848 E-mail: [clarendonfs@ftc-i.net](mailto:clarendonfs@ftc-i.net)**

# 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:

### Clarendon County School District 1 (50 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	20%	34%	46%
Language & Literacy	16%	32%	52%
Mathematics	22%	42%	36%
Physical Dev & WB	12%	16%	72%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>46%</b>

### Clarendon County School District 2 (186 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	31%	33%	36%
Language & Literacy	22%	45%	33%
Mathematics	39%	37%	24%
Physical Dev & WB	31%	28%	40%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>33%</b>

### Clarendon County School District 3 (83 children)

Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	17%	22%	61%
Language & Literacy	18%	45%	37%
Mathematics	29%	41%	30%
Physical Dev & WB	18%	14%	67%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>47%</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 Clarendon County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Clarendon County First Steps' Partnership board will continue to partner with other organizations within the community to evaluate programs and their effectiveness in promoting school readiness in preschool children. At all times, we want to ensure that we are implementing the programs and services that are most likely to enable our children to arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed.

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

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

- 95% of Families live in poverty.
- 78% Parents did not graduate from high school.
- 78% Are households are headed by single parents in need of other services.



Getting books and other school supplies at Clarendon County School District One's Back to School Bash 2018

**We added two new Parent Educators to our team during FY 2017-2018:**

- **Kia Frierson Brown-Clarendon School District 1**
- **Della Guin-Clarendon School District 3**

## PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	62	
Children Served	62	
Total Home Visits	897	
Hours Spent Serving Families	864	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	2.84	3.26

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

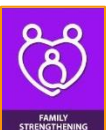
- ✓ Averaged 14 home visits per family;
- ✓ Identified and addressed 13 potential developmental delays;
- ✓ 45 families connected to necessary services, such as employment services, transportation services, food and/or clothing banks; and
- ✓ In partnership with the school districts, worked to improve literacy skills of preschool children by giving 875 books, lending 170 books, and lending 472 literacy kits to families with preschool children.

## Thank you to our PAT partners!

- Clarendon County School Districts One, Two and Three
- Fleming-Felder, Paxville, and Migrant Head Start
- Parents of preschool children that participate in PAT

## Evidence of Effectiveness:

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





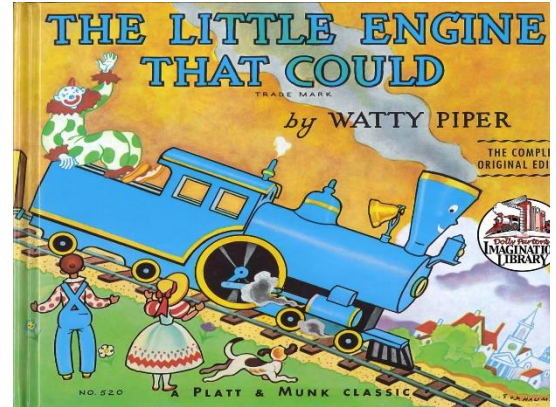
**Children’s reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.**

## Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age**. **One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.**

Clarendon County First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children that register with Clarendon County First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



*The first book participant children receive is a special edition of The Little Engine That Could. The book contains a message from Ms. Parton.*

## Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	209
Books Given to Children 0-5	1,910



### This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided books to 84% of children enrolled in the PAT program;
- ✓ Provided books to 100% of children enrolled in parenting programs sponsored by Save the Children;
- ✓ Continued to seek funding so that all of Clarendon County’s preschool children can participate in the Imagination Library; and
- ✓ Continued to provide age-appropriate literacy brochures on what parents can do to make the most of their shared reading time with their children. The brochures, which were developed by the American Library Association, are mailed to the families of new children that enroll in the program.

### Thank you to our Imagination Library partners!

- Dollywood Foundation
- Clarendon County School Districts One, Two and Three
- Save the Children

#### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Imagination Library 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.

### Training Sponsored by Clarendon County First Steps, 2017-18

- Introduction to Leadership
- Marketing Your Child Care Business
- Maintaining High Quality Early Childhood Environments
- Language Development from Birth to 8 Years
- Implementing Safe Practices
- The Fundamental Causes of Positive and Negative Behavior
- First Aid
- CPR
- Blood Borne Pathogens



A perfect way to end a training session: Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly bestows upon Ms. Ethel Chatman a medal of achievement. Ms. Chatman, a veteran teacher at Fleming-Felder Head Start, attended all six of the sessions in the training series.

**This year, our Training program:**


- ✓ Was supported with funding from the SC Center for Child Care Career Development;
- ✓ Provided 30 certified training hours (5 hours in Curriculum Activities; 5 hours in Professional Development; 10 hours in Health & Safety; 5 hours in Child Guidance; and 5 hours in Program Administration) to Clarendon County’s early care and education providers; and
- ✓ Potentially impacted as many as 568 preschool children in Clarendon County.
- ✓ Impacted preschool children in neighboring counties (providers from Sumter and Williamsburg Counties attended one or more training sessions).

### Thank you to our Training partners!

- Clarendon County’s Early Care and Education Community
- Clarendon County Community Recreation Center
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD)

**Evidence of Effectiveness:**

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



# Countdown to Kindergarten



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	24
Families Served	23
Home/School Visits	144

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



Veteran CTK teacher Ms. Blair and her students on Pajama Day at the Manning Early Childhood Center

- ✓ Parents report an increase in their knowledge of what is expected of them and their children in 5-K; and
- ✓ 100 % of parents say that it is likely that they will regularly participate in supporting their child’s classroom.

## Thank you to our CTK partners!

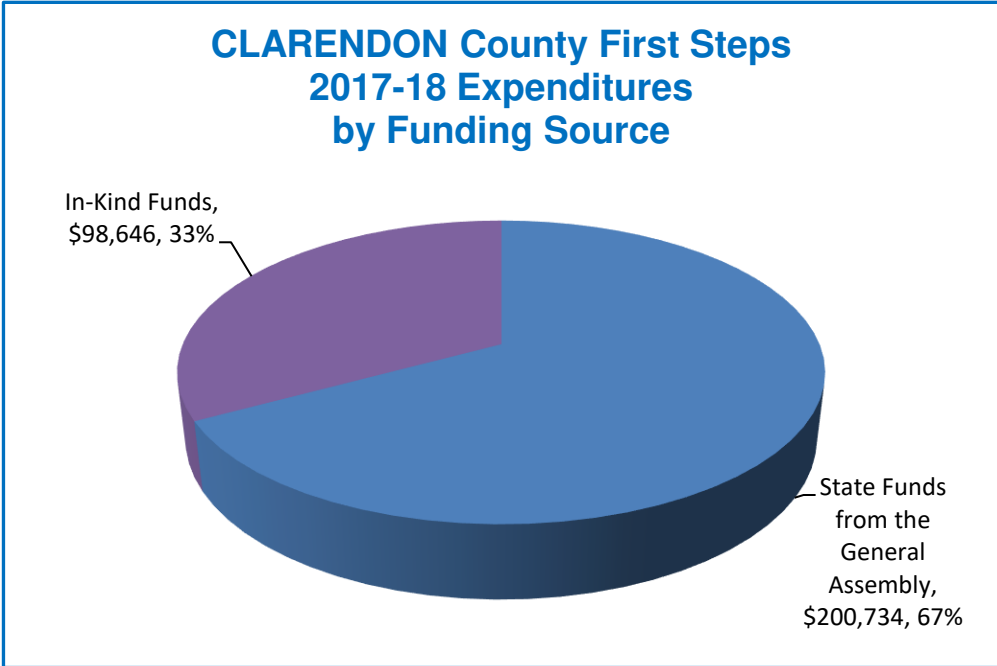
- Clarendon County School Districts 1, 2 and 3
- CTK Teachers
- Fleming-Felder Head Start Center
- Paxville Head Start Center
- Kaplan Early Learning Company

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: \$299,380**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18\*: 49%**

\*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	\$83,795	\$0	\$0	\$90,995	\$174,791	58%
Imagination Library	\$3,867	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,867	1%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$7,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,600	3%
Child Care Training	\$30,942	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,942	10%
Program Support	\$49,525	\$0	\$0	\$5,017	\$54,542	18%
Administrative Support	\$25,006	\$0	\$0	\$2,634	\$27,640	9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$200,734</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$98,646</b>	<b>\$299,380</b>	

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

**Since inception, CLARENDON County First Steps has leveraged \$1,341,596.91 from sources outside of state government. That's 38 cents for every state dollar.**

# Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Clarendon County 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: \$200,000
- Clarendon County School District Two: \$2,154
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development: \$2,000

## In-Kind Support

- Clarendon County First Steps Board
- Clarendon County School District 1
- Clarendon County School District 2
- Clarendon County School District 3
- Palmetto Goodwill



## How your support helps children in Clarendon County:

- ✓ \$25 annually allows one of Clarendon County's preschool children to participate in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for one year.

Give the gift of early literacy by sponsoring a child! You may mail your donation to:

Clarendon County First Steps

Post Office Box 426

Manning, SC 29102.

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

## Kathleen L. Gibson

On March 1, 2018, Kathleen Lawson Gibson, Director of Clarendon County School District One's Community Resource Center, and long-time CCFS board member, was one of four Midlands-area women honored by the Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands. The Women of Distinction Award recognizes local women of courage, confidence, and character who exhibit exceptional professional and personal success and have made a lasting impact in the community.

Gibson is truly a servant to her community! In addition to serving on CCFS' Board (initially representing Parenting and Family Support Providers, but currently representing Clarendon School District One), she is actively involved with the following: the Willow Glen Academy's Human Rights Board, the Clarendon County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, Guardian Ad Litem, the Children's Trust of South Carolina, the National, State and local Education Associations, the American Red Cross, and the Clarendon Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), among others.



Gibson has been employed by Clarendon School District One for over thirty years. She has worked as a para-professional, an early care and education teacher, the director of the school district's child care center, and a parent educator (certified in both the Parents As Teachers and Parent-Child Home curriculum). In addition to her current role as the Director of Clarendon School District One's Community Resource Center, Gibson also serves as the school district's Title I Parenting Coordinator.

Gibson has received other honors and awards for her work in the community. She was awarded the Doretha Ford Service Award (for exemplary services, professional commitment, and leadership in community affairs) by the Manning Branch of the NAACP, Clarendon School District One's Award of Distinction, the Young Adults' Missionary Trailblazer in the Community Award, Clarendon County's Branch of the NAACP's Roosevelt Mitchell Community Service Award, and the Scott's Branch High School Alumni Association's Exemplary Community Service Award.

Gibson is the daughter of the late Henry Lawson and Faye Smith Lawson. She received her formal education in Clarendon School District One and was an honor graduate of Scott's Branch High School's Class of 1970. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood, with a concentration in Psychology. She is always proud to let young people know that it is never too late to reach their goals. As she is quick to tell anyone, she was a "non-traditional student" who walked across the stage of the Carolina Coliseum in her early 40's.

# First Steps Partnership Board

Clarendon County First Steps would not be able to efficiently and effectively serve the children and families of Clarendon County without our local board of directors. This group of committed volunteers ensure that:

- CCFS's staff are operating programs and services in accordance with standards that have been established by the SC First Steps State Office;
- Implementing programs that are research-based and proven effective in improving school readiness in preschool children;
- Ensuring that CCFS' funding is expended in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, as well as best practices in nonprofit management;
- Ensuring that CCFS implements best practices in carrying out the mission of the organization;
- Collaborating with other organizations within Clarendon County and outside of Clarendon County in meaningful ways; and
- Securing and maximizing resources in order to implement quality early care and education programs and services.

Thank you to members of the CCFS Partnership Board for all you do to contribute in meaningful ways to ensure that Clarendon County's children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. Your unwavering commitment has made and will continue to make a world of difference in the lives of our children!

## Clarendon County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Tonia M. Smith, GPC	Board Chairperson	Clarendon School District Two Representative
Pamela Clavon-Brunson	Vice Chairperson	Business Community
Jennifer Jean	Secretary	Local Library
Tamara Alston-Hunter	Board Member	Clarendon School District Three Representative
Christy Coker	Board Member	Pre-Kindergarten-Primary Educator
Mary Cooper	Board Member	Head Start Representative
Kathleen Gibson	Board Member	Clarendon School District One Representative
Priscilla Green	Board Member	Pre-kindergarten-Primary Educator
Helen Jackson	Board Member	Parent of a preschool child
Joni James-Jackson	Board Member	Child Care Provider
Michael Jonas	Board Member	Transportation Provider
Robin Layton	Board Member	DSS Representative
Darla Lee	Board Member	DHEC Representative
Jason Montgomery	Board Member	Local Government Representative
Wanda Nelson	Board Member	Faith Community
Dr. Myra Pearson	Board Member	Family Education, Training & Support Provider
Faye Ragin	Board Member	Child Care Representative

# 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 more information about SCFS across the state:

[www.scfirststeps.org](http://www.scfirststeps.org)

For more information about CCFS:

<http://scfirststeps.com/clarendon>



[I CAN] is First Steps’ public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state’s Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

Visit: [ican.sc](http://ican.sc)

Like us on Facebook: [icansc](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)