

DORCHESTER COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Parent Child Home

Early ID & Referral

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

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

scfirststeps.com/dorchester

810 Travelers Blvd. Suite D-1 Summerville, SC 29485 ♦ (803)998.5505 ♦

Executive Director's Message

Over-coming All Odds: Do You Like Us Now?

It is with great pleasure that I share how Dorchester County First Steps has overcome many adversities to reach and make an impact in the lives of the children birth to five and their families in Dorchester County.

Dorchester County has a diverse economic population. The median family income is 65,000.00(according to 2016 Kids Count data). Yet over 8% of children under age 18 are living with parents who are unemployed. As of 2016, 5,393 children in Dorchester County live in poverty. We have only seven ABC Quality rated centers and only 3 of those have a B+ designation. The odds are stacked against us, but yet we have been able to make great gains towards improving the quality of child care in our area. We are currently working with seven centers and they all have made significant gains according to pre & post score results on the Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale. Five of the seven centers are ready to increase their ABC Quality rating, thus providing more quality care for children in our county. We provided Master Certified training to 283 child care providers. We were able to provide school transition for 79 at-risk, rising Kindergarten children through Countdown to Kindergarten. We provided 24 children with full-time scholarships for child care, so parents could attend school or work. We participated in six outreach opportunities and gave away over 300 books. We screened 47 children using the ASQ assessment and shared resources with each one to help the child and family. For 12 weeks we implemented a parenting program called "Positive Discipline for Parents" to incarcerated teens, who are parents, at the Dorchester County Department of Juvenile Justice. We served 18 males (ages 14-18) and 16 females (ages 14-17). We have done much more.

None of this would be possible without the able help and expertise of the DCFS Staff: Alicia Turner, Ivory Mitchell and Kristy Allan and of course the DCFS Local Partnership Board's support and belief in us. We are excelling despite the odds. Do you like us now?



*Dr. Crystal Y. Campbell,
Executive Director*

County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Parent Child Home
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Early ID & Referral

Crystal Y. Campbell

OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, **Dorchester County First Steps** helps families and caregivers in our 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 DORCHESTER 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 Dorchester County.

How are Dorchester 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?
9,709 are under age 5	N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	36 licensed child care centers
14.2% live in poverty	37 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	36 licensed group/family homes
9.9% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	94 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	28% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
1.3% Live births to mothers under 18	558 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	6 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
41% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	9 were served by	501 families received assistance with affording child care last year
<i>Kids Count data provided by:</i>	<i>Data provided by:</i> SC Profile Early Childhood	SC Profile and ABC Quality Early Childhood

THE GOALS

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

1. DCFS will create additional strategies to address the health care of children birth to age 5.
2. DCFS will increase the local partnership's infrastructure to improve and enhance services and support to families.
3. DCFS will implement training and coaching for Child Care Providers
4. DCFS will continue to implement the Parents As Teachers program and prepare for blue ribbon status

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Dorchester County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **68 children** and **51 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, Child Care Voucher Programs and connections with resources that can aid the entire family**
- ✓ **25 staff** working in **7** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 2173 children ages 0-5 in their care -Little Fish Academy, Sunshine House #60, Riverpointe Christian Academy, In God's Care, Loving and Learning Child Care, Summerville Baptist CDC, Good Shepherd CDC**
- ✓ financial assistance to help **24 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school
- ✓ **1004 books** to **spark the love of reading** for **147 children in PAT and CTK**
- ✓ a total of **2367 children** and **357 adults** were impacted by Dorchester County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

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:



Dorchester District Two (1765 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	26%	48%
Language&Literacy	20%	41%	40%
Mathematics	24%	37%	39%
Physical Dev&WB	26%	26%	48%
OVERALL	23%	35%	42%

Dorchester District Four (173 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	33%	38%
Language&Literacy	20%	38%	42%
Mathematics	32%	43%	25%
Physical Dev&WB	24%	39%	38%
OVERALL	26%	39%	35%

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 Dorchester County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Dorchester First Steps will implement the goals and objectives stated in their Comprehensive Plan. We will continue to reach out, support and provide superior training, coaching and mentoring to the child care providers (family and center based) in our county, to include understanding of the Early Learning Standards, guidance, and help with children with special needs, continue to increase the number of families we help with PAT, and provide quality child care for the families in need so they can go to school or work. Our support for families is ever growing and evolving to meet their needs.

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



Alicia Turner , Program Director, and Kristy Allan, Program Specialist provide quality instruction using the PAT model for each child. Each child gets a book to keep at every visit as well.

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

- 14.6% ... live in poverty
- 9.9% ... didn't graduate high school
- 1.3% ... were teen parents

EI&R by the Numbers 2017-18

Children Served	47
Materials Distributed	23
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	25

This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- ✓ Screened 47 children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred 32 families to community resources after screening indicated need, and resources like Baby Net and Home visitation.

Thank you to our EI&R partners!

- Dorchester District Two- Susan Gaston
- Dorchester District Four- Rhonda Robinson & Monica Tudder
- Baby Net & Child Find 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

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

14.6% ... live in poverty
 9.9% ... didn't graduate from high school
 1.3% ... were teen parents



PAT Program Director, Alicia Turner, prepared a kinesthetic, sensory, and creative lesson for a young one she works with. It was a family affair.

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	33	
Children Served	44	
Total Home Visits	365	
Hours Spent Serving Families	407	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	2.81	3.52

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 11 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 13 potential developmental delays and made 40 connections for families to services such as Baby Net, Developmental Therapists, Clothing Assistance, Local Libraries, and Preschool Programs
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with a focus on parent interactions and partnering with caregivers to observe their children's behaviors while reflecting on their own agenda and expectations, parents are able to gain insight into the how and why of their parenting. By facilitation these interactions parent are able to improve their parenting practices.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by including reading in to every home visit. Every child receives a brand new age appropriate book at each home visit. Children and families look forward to reading their new books and are often proud to show their collections whild learning about their children's favorite stories.

Thank you to our PAT partners!

Dorchester County Libraries
 ABC Quality Child Care Center partners
 Baby Net

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Parent Child Home

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

First Steps’ parent home visitation strategies are designed to equip adult clients with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote the school readiness, healthy development and long-term success of their preschool-aged children.

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PCH families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed



“It’s a program that is going to help her with her 123’s and her letters.” I.L.

Based on surveys administered to families PCH received 100% satisfaction rating.



Families Served (DD4 only)	18	
Children Served	20	
Total Home Visits	1385	
Hours Spent Serving Families	1385	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	70	72

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 77 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 1 potential developmental delay, and made 34 connections for families to services such as Speech/Language, DSS, Baby Net, and Child Find
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing over 1000 books and/or toys to every family during every home visit.

Thank you to our Parent Child Home partners!

- Dorchester District Two
- Dorchester District Four
- Dorchester County Library

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parent Child Home meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an *evidence-informed* 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.

"These two trainings have been the most engaging classes I have taken since moving down south to SC!"

Ms. P. Brown

Based on comments made on evaluations, 100% of the participants were satisfied with the training provided.



DCFS offers active, hands-on training opportunities for all child care providers and directors. Once a month on a Saturday they all come together for 5 hours of training.

A Few of the Trainings Sponsored by Dorchester First Steps, 2017-18

Topic:	Sessions:
Do You Know Where the Children Are?	1
Creative Curriculum Overview	1
Understanding the Cues of Infants/Toddlers	1 of 3
Attachment: Early Relationships Matter	2 of 3
Understanding Feelings & Learning to be Social	3 of 3
Literacy & Language-Language Dev	1 of 2
Learning About My World-Intellectual Dev	2 of 2

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	283
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	187
Number of Training Sessions Offered	40

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 187 early childhood staff with high quality training impacting 30 providers and 2173 children
- ✓ 40 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 56 hours of follow-up visits with training participants, signed up to work with DCFS, to help put training into practice.

Thank you to our Training partners!

- Child Care Career Development
- Parents As Teachers
- Summerville Baptist CDC
- Riverpointe Christian Academy

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 Dorchester 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.

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

- 14.6% ... live in poverty
- 9.9% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 1.5% ... were teen parents
- 29% ... had developmental delays

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.

Children receiving scholarships also are required to attend Parents As Teachers Group Connection Meetings and/or participate in the Parents As Teachers program. Mrs. Ivory Mitchell, Quality Enhancement Coordinator, supervises this collaboration between programs.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	24
Providers Served	7



5 out of the 7 centers DCFS worked with in FY18 made significant gains on the ITERS assessment. They are ready to move up a level in ABC Quality. *Ivory Mitchell*

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 24 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 7 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 18 connections for families to services such as PAT, Trident United Way, Housing Authority of Charleston and Dorchester Dept. of Social Services
- ✓ Provided 19 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Finding quality child care, training on state DSS data system and finding child care facilities, and Parents As Teachers and Parent Child Home Programs.

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- Little Fish Academy- Ronda Simmons, Owner and Director
- Riverpointe Christian Academy- Kathy Jones, Owner and Director
- Sunshine House 28- Erica Smith, Director
- Sunshine House 60- Marlaina Alston, Director
- LaPetite Academy- Anna Reese Cripe and Sherelle Goodwine
- Cadence Academy-Deborah Button

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



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.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

Children Served	79
Families Served	76
Home/School Visits	475

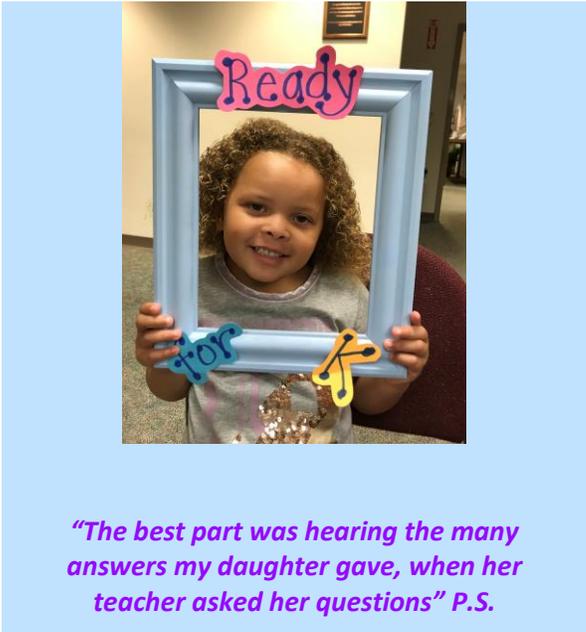
**CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*

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.



This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 92% of the parents surveyed felt their child was prepared for Kindergarten.
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 10%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 66% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in Self- Help and Social Emotional standards during the 2017-18 school year.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 33% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child’s education in the areas of Mathematics and Language and Literacy.

Thank you to our CTK partners!

- State Office of First Steps
- Dorchester District Two
- Dorchester District Four
- Dorchester County Library

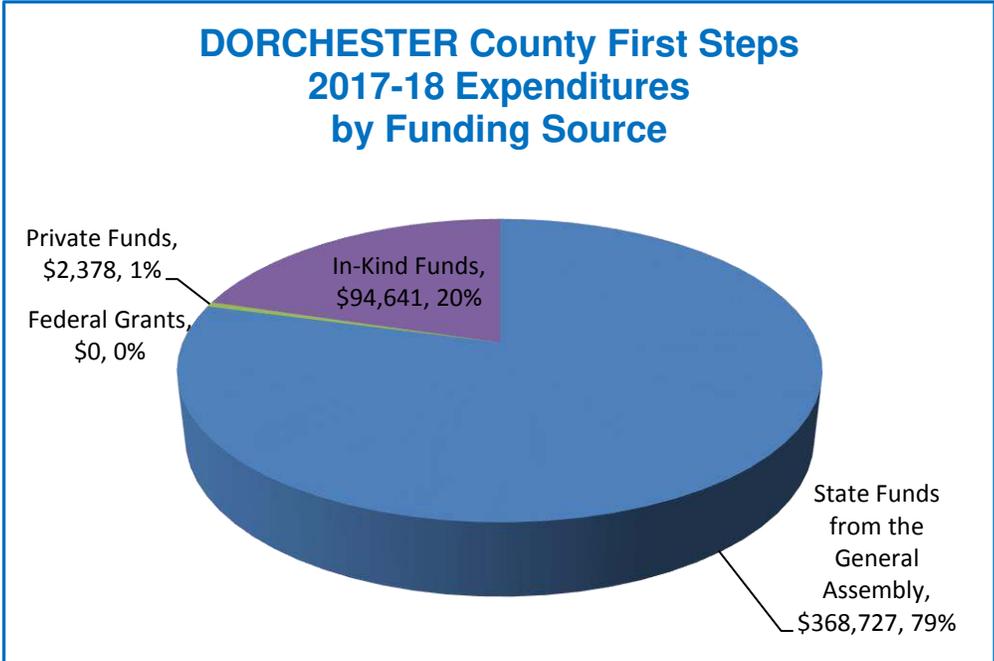
Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

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: \$465,746

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 26%

**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	\$117,184	\$0	\$0	\$1,400	\$118,584	25%
Community Outreach	\$69,275	\$0	\$88	\$0	\$69,363	15%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$25,423	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,423	5%
Parent Child Home	\$53,826	\$0	\$0	\$93,145	\$146,971	32%
Child Care Training	\$29,637	\$0	\$2,140	\$20	\$31,797	7%
Child Care Scholarships	\$3,955	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,955	1%
Early ID & Referral	\$10,808	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,808	2%
Program Support	\$31,035	\$0	\$0	\$35	\$31,070	7%
Administrative Support	\$27,579	\$0	\$148	\$41	\$27,768	6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$368,722	\$0	\$2,376	\$94,641	\$465,739	

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

Since inception, Dorchester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,620,327 from sources outside of state government.

Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$346,221.00
(through South Carolina First Steps)
Department of Social Services: 2000.00
Riverpointe Christian Academy: 500.00
BJ's Wholesale: 100.00

In-Kind Support

Dorchester District Two
Dorchester District Four
ABC Child Care
Child Care Resource and Referral
Dorchester County Library System



Thanks to our supporters for providing resources for the children to explore

How your support helps children in Dorchester County:

- ✓ \$20.00 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$15.00 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$283.00 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

HOW TO GIVE: To make a tax-free contribution send a check or money order to: **Dorchester County First Steps**

810 Travelers Blvd. Suite D-1, Summerville SC 29485

Save the Date!

Join us for the Tri-County First Steps Collaborative with Magnolia Gardens:

The Fairy Challenge

October 27, 2018- 3:00-7:00 pm.

Follow us on FACEBOOK for a special event at Magnolia Gardens each month



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

Community Impact

Overcoming All Odds: Do You Like Us Now?

Supporting Family Well-Being

By Alicia Turner, Program Director



As part of our support to families, each parent sets a goal and we help the parent achieve that goal. One of our parents set the goal for completing her GED. As part of a visit, I helped her to go on-line and set up communication with an agency that could help her. This agency was Dorchester District Two Adult Education. Together with DD2, and the parent she is making great strides to completing this process. By June 30, she will be finished and successful.

Positive Discipline for Parents At DJJ

Dorchester First Steps striving to make a difference in the lives of children whose parents have been incarcerated



Teaching staff at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Dorchester County. Crystal Campbell, Executive Director for DCFS, implemented a 12 week Parenting Program called Positive Discipline for Parents with teen boys and girls who are currently parents or will be in the future.

DCFS LIBRARY KITS



In 2017-2018, the Library Kits circulated 834 times between the two libraries. Parents reported that they really enjoy the kits and will check out the same one several times in a row. Kristy Allan keeps them stocked and in good repair.

DCFS

Christmas Toy Give-Away



This initiative is spear-headed by Mrs. Ivory Mitchell, Quality Enhancement Coordinator. Each year she has a contest between the child care centers, to see which center can gather the most toys. The proceeds are given to children in our parenting programs, scholarships and My Sister's House. In FY18 25 families benefitted from this special activity.

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

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



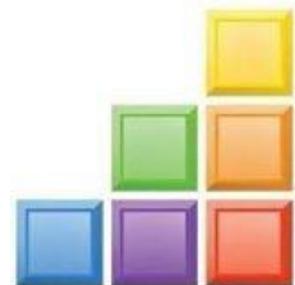
School Transition

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 Dorchester County First Steps:
SCFirststeps.org/Dorchester



[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**

Like us on Facebook: **icansc**

