

EDGEFIELD COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Family Literacy

Imagination Library

Nurse Family Partnership

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Positive Parenting Program
(Triple P)

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

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

www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com

P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824 ♦ 803-275-0800 ♦ edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net

Executive Director Message

Planning for the Future of Edgefield County First Steps

There is an old Chinese proverb that states that one generation plants the trees; another gets the shade. As First Steps nears its 20th year in existence, we are looking at serving our next generation within the next 5-10 years.

In the fall of 2016, Edgefield County First Steps (ECFS) completed its most recent needs and resources assessment. This assessment had two components – identification of existing community resources and determination of county-wide needs using both an agency survey and a community survey. Three priority needs were identified:

1. Assist families with risk factors with the cost of quality child care
2. Offer a parent education strategy that is available independent from other strategies to increase the number of parents who enroll in parent education services
3. Educate the community about our strategies to maximize the number of families who receive services provided by ECFS



Using information from this needs and resources assessment, the ECFS Partnership Board started work in the fall of 2017 to develop a 3-year comprehensive plan. The Board participated in the first strategic planning session to review the current vision and mission statements and to determine the core values for ECFS. An assessment of each of the strategies currently funded was provided for the Board's review and a second strategic planning session took place where strategic goals and outcomes were determined.

Through this thorough and reflective process, the ECFS Partnership Board is confident moving forward with the strategies outlined in the 3-year plan. With the additional focus on longitudinal tracking of children and families that we have served, the long-term benefits of participating in quality early childhood programs will be determined. A review of the plan each year will ensure our resources are put to best use.

Many thanks go out to our legislative delegation, state office staff, community partners, vendors, Board members, and families for their support of Edgefield County First Steps. We remain committed to serving the children of Edgefield County for years to come.

Candi Lalonde
Executive Director

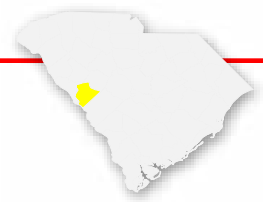
OUR MISSION:

First Steps empowers Edgefield County families and caregivers to prepare children for school success by delivering, enhancing, and expanding high-quality early childhood services.

Find Edgefield County First Steps on Facebook








Edgefield County First Steps to School Readiness



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 Edgefield County.

How are Edgefield 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?
1,099 are under age 5	32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	7 licensed child care centers
25.8% live in poverty	41 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	9 licensed group/family homes
20.3% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	108 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	6% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
24.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms age 15-19	60 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	1 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
42.1% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	5 were served by 	60 families received assistance with affording child care last year
Kids Count data provided by: 	Data provided by:  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 Edgefield County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase access to and affordability of high-quality child care and a continuum of early childhood educational services
2. Increase knowledge of parenting skills to empower parents to be their child's first teacher
3. Address barriers of families to increase participation in Edgefield County First Steps' services
4. Educate community about programs and services provided by Edgefield County First Steps
5. Determine long-term benefits of participation with longitudinal tracking of participants
6. Engage and mobilize community to promote early childhood education programs county-wide

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Edgefield County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **49 children** and **42 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
- ✓ financial assistance to help **25 children** 0-5 **attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school
- ✓ **1826 books** to **spark the love of reading** for **232 children** through the **Imagination Library** program and an additional **3053 books** through local schools, Head Start, Early Head Start, and local child care centers
- ✓ a total of **709 children** and **436 adults** were impacted by Edgefield 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:

Edgefield County School District (240 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	25%	23%	51%
Language&Literacy	25%	40%	35%
Mathematics	31%	43%	26%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	17%	61%
OVERALL	25%	33%	42%

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

Edgefield County kindergartners are exceeding the state average for demonstrating readiness in all areas with the exception of mathematics, but we still have much work to do so that all kindergartners are ready by the time they reach first grade. ECFS is looking forward to working in partnership with the local child care centers, Early Head Start and Head Start, and the local school district to strengthen early childhood experiences for all Edgefield County children. In addition to a county-wide meeting to discuss an early childhood education plan (to be held in late 2018), ECFS has already scheduled a child care workshop called "Math Moments" for November 2018 to train child care center staff members on offering math experiences to our youngest children.

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

In Edgefield County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Carolina Health Centers, Inc.

Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our NFP families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 33% ... less than high school education
- 33% ... teen parents



In partnership with McCormick and Saluda County First Steps, NFP mothers and babies were presented with Christmas gift boxes.

NFP by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	12
Number of Home Visits	120

This year, our NFP program:

- ✓ 100% of mothers reported satisfied or very satisfied with program services
- ✓ 100% of mothers had a medical home and were screened for post-partum depression
- ✓ 89% of babies were healthy weight
- ✓ 50% of families this program year have had more than 20 home visits since enrollment
- ✓ Graduated 2 families

Thank you to our NFP partners!

Carolina Health Centers, Inc.
McCormick County First Steps
Saluda County First Steps
Edgefield County Health Department

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Nurse-Family Partnership meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an *evidence-based* program.



Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

Educating and empowering families with parenting skills and strategies.

Program Description

The Triple P -Positive Parenting Program - is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 35 years of ongoing research. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage their children's behavior, and prevent problems from developing.

Our Triple P program:

- ✓ Provides interactive workshops for small groups of no more than 12 parents
- ✓ Utilizes DVD's and workbooks to engage parents and reinforce strategies
- ✓ Works across cultures, socio-economic groups, and many different kinds of family structures

Parents take notes regarding different parenting strategies during one of the Triple P workshops.



Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need.
Among our Triple P families:

78% ... live in poverty
78% ... were single parent households
22% ... had less than a high school education

Triple P by the Numbers 2017-18

Children Served	21
Families Served	18
Total Workshops	11
Total Workshop Hours	24
Total Workshop Attendance	75

This year, our Triple P program:

- ✓ Provided 11 workshops for a total of 24 hours of parenting information
- ✓ Served 18 families with 21 children

Thank you to our Triple P partners!

Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)
Edgefield County Department of Social Services

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Triple P meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Parents are their child's first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

Our family literacy program:

- ✓ **Helps parents of young children increase their education levels**
- ✓ **Teaches parents how to support their child's literacy and overall development**
- ✓ **Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education**

Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our family literacy program families:

100% ... live in poverty
83% ... less than high school diploma at enrollment
92% ... are single parent households

100% of family literacy participants strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the program services



The Edgefield County Family Literacy program had 6 of their students attain their high school diploma or GED during the 2017-2018 program year.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2017-18

Adults Served	12
Children Served	16
Adult Education Hours Offered	396
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered	520
Parenting Education Hours Offered	128
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	6

This year, our Family Literacy program:

- ✓ **Conducted 73 home visits, working with the parents and their children with educational activities**
- ✓ **Completed 30 developmental assessments and identified 5 potential delays**
- ✓ **Had attendance of over 1,500 adult education hours, with 6 adults earning their High School Diploma or GED**
- ✓ **Had attendance of almost 500 parent education hours, and over 1,600 early childhood education hours**

Thank you to our Family Literacy partners!

Edgefield County School District
Peach Blossom Express

Evidence of Effectiveness:

The Family Literacy components of early childhood education meet 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.**

Edgefield 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 who register with Edgefield 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.



Kristin reads one of the Imagination Library books to the children in her class.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	232
Books Given to Children 0-5	1826

**Sponsor a child
today for just \$27
a year!**

This year, our Imagination Library program:

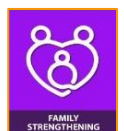
- ✓ Provided one book per month to 232 children
- ✓ Pre-survey results indicate that 52% of the children enrolled have fewer than 10 books in their home
- ✓ Post-survey results indicate that 43% of families enrolled increased the amount of time they spent reading to their child
- ✓ Received donations from more than 60 community members and organizations in support of children's literacy

Thank you to these Imagination Library partners (and over 50 more individual sponsors):

Dollywood Foundation Edgefield Educational Consulting Services, LLC
Beth McLeod, Fulcher Law Firm Town of Trenton Dr. Jeffery Gosney
Maxwell and Halford Drug Sumner Law Firm Reel Insurance Agency
Creative Learning Center United Way of Edgefield
Women in Rural Electrification (W.I.R.E.) c/o Aiken Electric Cooperative

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Imagination Library meets 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-3, and/or ECERS-3)
7. Introduction of a comprehensive Quality Improvement Plan document, completed on every child care staff member

QE by the Numbers, 2017-18

Child Care Providers Served	1
Number of TA Visits Provided	34
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	50

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Creative Learning Center, 3 year- old room	From 4.94 to 5.78
Creative Learning Center, 4 year-old room	From 4.49 to 4.94
	Annual Review Score
Creative Learning Center, Toddler room	5.47
Creative Learning Center, infant room	5.47

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by 0.645 (on a 7.0 point scale) based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
- ✓ Provided 41 hours of technical assistance to child care providers, contributing to the professional growth of 9 child care teachers and directors
- ✓ Provided \$3,600 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Utilized a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), aligned with the new SC Early Learning Standards, to assess individual child care staff member performance – 100% of staff members showed improvement from pre- to post-QIP scores

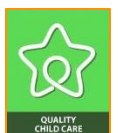
Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

Creative Learning Center

Saluda County First Steps

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Quality Enhancement 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 by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	329
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	36
Number of Training Sessions Offered	21

Training Sponsored by Edgefield County First Steps, 2017-18

Topic:

Communication and Language Development of Young Children
Guided Play: Supporting Both Children and Parents
Penguins and Polar Bears – Creating A Monthly Plan
Quality Never Goes Out of Style
Families as Partners in Supporting Early Language and Literacy
Impact of Early Childhood Mental Health on Development
Environments That Nurture Early Language and Literacy
Curriculum Activities for the Outdoor Learning Environment
Effective Teaching Strategies for Supporting Social-Emotional Literacy
Moral Development of Young Children
Physical Development of Young Children
Introduction to ECERS-3
Introduction to ITERS-3
Transition Magician
Going From Boss to Coach
Emergent Literacy in Two Languages
No "I" In Team
The Importance of Relationships
Bloodborne Pathogens



Child care staff members learn the value of teamwork during a training workshop.

This year, our Training program provided:

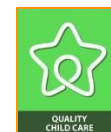
- ✓ 36 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 14 providers and 204 children
- ✓ 42.5 hours of certified training and 1.0 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 100% of training attendees reported they were satisfied or highly satisfied with trainings

Thank you to our Training partners!

S.C. Center for Child Care Career Development
Saluda County First Steps
S.C. Child Care Resource & Referral

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 Edgefield 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.

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

- 81% ... live in poverty
- 71% ... were single parent households
- 19% ... had less than high school education
- 14% ... were teen parents

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least two developmental screenings each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

All child care scholarship parents are referred to our Triple P strategy and all children are enrolled in our Imagination Library program.

Raining outside doesn't stop these scholarship children from getting some exercise – they are enjoying horse racing in the hallway.



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	25
Providers Served	1

This year, our Scholarship program:

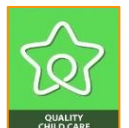
- ✓ Provided 25 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Completed 58 developmental screenings and identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ 100% of child care scholarship parents were satisfied or highly satisfied with scholarship services
- ✓ Supported 1 small businesses in Edgefield County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 2 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as quality child care

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

Creative Learning Center

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence-based programs:
Triple P, Child Care Training,
and Child Care Quality Enhancement.



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	17
Families Served	16
Home/School Visits	96

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



Back-to-School supplies we purchased for our Countdown to Kindergarten students.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of families would recommend CTK to other families
- ✓ 100% of families were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their home visitor and the materials provided.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK students performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in self-help and motor skills and 94% of CTK students performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in language and literacy development and mathematical thinking during the 2017-18 school year.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 93% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education in the areas of maintaining contact with the teacher during the school year

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Edgefield County School District – Douglas Elementary
School and Merriwether Elementary School

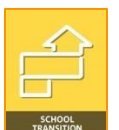
Kaplan Early Learning Company

Like us on Facebook!
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

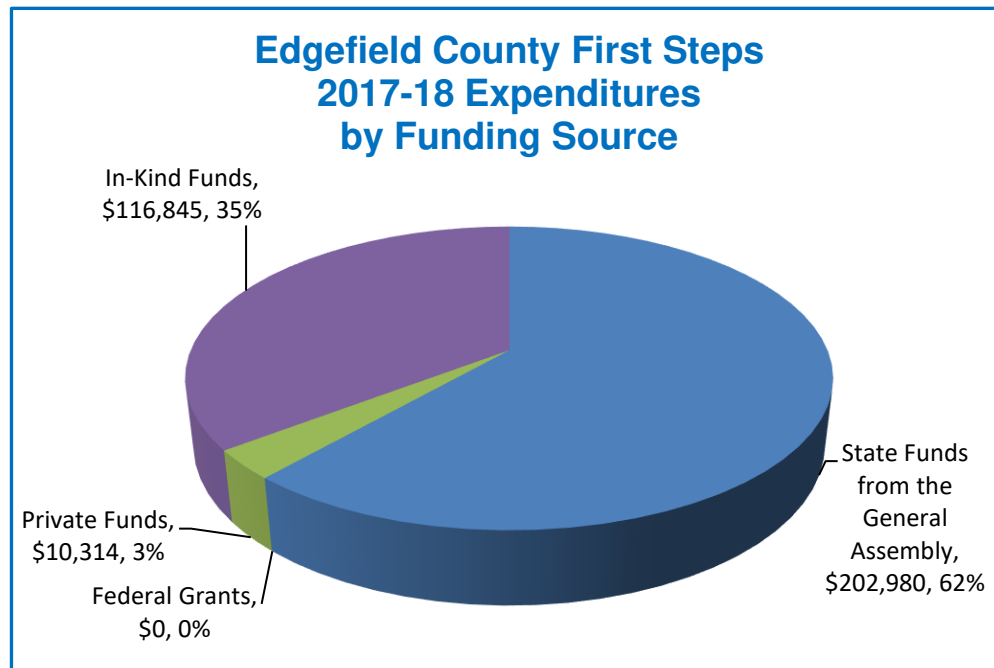


Evidence of Effectiveness:

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: \$330,139

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 63%

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

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Triple P	\$1,533	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,533	0%
Imagination Library	\$1,930	\$0	\$1,783	\$0	\$3,713	1%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,916	\$30,916	9%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$4,099	\$0	\$597	\$0	\$4,696	1%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$12,985	\$0	\$0	\$720	\$13,705	4%
Child Care Training	\$8,576	\$0	\$1,952	\$720	\$11,248	3%
Child Care Scholarships	\$71,252	\$0	\$0	\$720	\$71,972	22%
Family Literacy	\$39,694	\$0	\$1,202	\$84,959	\$125,855	38%
Program Support	\$23,722	\$0	\$4,608	\$23,090	\$51,420	16%
Administrative Support	\$14,189	\$0	\$172	\$720	\$15,081	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$202,980	\$0	\$10,314	\$116,845	\$330,139	

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

Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged \$1,816,002 from sources outside of state government. That's 61.5 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Community Foundation of the CSRA: \$4,000

SC Center for Child Care Career Development:
\$2,000

United Way of Edgefield: \$96.00

In-Kind Support

Edgefield County School District

Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce

Carolina Health Centers, Inc.

First Book



Dr. Jeffery Gosney with Edgefield Family Dentistry has sponsored children for our Imagination Library program every year since we started in 2005.

How your support helps children in Edgefield County:

- ✓ \$27 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$100 provides back to school supplies for 5 Countdown to Kindergarten students
- ✓ \$200 provides 6 summer home visits for a Countdown to Kindergarten student
- ✓ \$250 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

HOW TO GIVE:

Mail your tax-deductible check (made payable to Edgefield County First Steps) to: P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824

Save the Date!

Nominations for the Edgefield County First Steps Board will be accepted from October 2018 through November 12, 2018. Please contact us at 803-275-0800 if you are interested in serving on our Board.

The Edgefield County First Steps Annual Meeting will be in November 2018 - see our website for specific date

The Week of the Young Child is April 8-12, 2019 – check our Facebook page in early 2019 for more details

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

Expanding Our Reach Throughout Our Community

One of the strategic goals for Edgefield County First Steps was to educate the community about the programs and services of Edgefield County First Steps. We set up our display table at the Women in Unity Back to School event in Edgefield in July, at the Peach Blossom Festival in Johnston in May, and at the Ridge Peach Festival in Trenton in June. Hundreds of families and children stopped by our table for information and goodies!



We created our Facebook page in July 2017 and we now have 363 followers. Several times a year we host Facebook giveaways where we post a picture of books and have a drawing where we pick a winner from those who have liked, shared, and tagged 3 friends in our post. This has been very successful endeavor, with these posts having a reach of between 3,500 and 7,000 each time.

Jackson was very excited when his mom was the winner of one of our Facebook giveaways.

Book distributions are one of our most successful outreach endeavors. Every other month, Edgefield County First Steps goes to the 4K and 5K classrooms in the 4 elementary schools in Edgefield County, to the Early Head Start and Head Start classrooms, and to both licensed child care centers in the county giving books to all the children. Last year, we gave away almost 3,000 books through this effort.

Our Executive Director Candi Lalonde shows Aramis Hillary, new owner of Little Folks Day Care, the books that First Steps is giving to the children in the center.



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

First Steps Partnership Board

The Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board of Directors exemplifies service and leadership, whether it involves the many hours devoted to reading and studying program materials, attending Board meetings, or accepting the responsibility of local fundraising. Each time the Board meets, there is a convergence of our county's education, health, business, and faith communities that is dedicated to our mission of empowering Edgefield County families and caregivers to prepare children for school success by delivering, enhancing, and expanding high-quality early childhood services.

This group of committed volunteers carries our message and our mission to the classrooms, the businesses, the churches, and the living rooms of Edgefield County. They also bring the ideas, the input and the concerns of the community for children's issues into the Edgefield County First Steps' board room for discussion, evaluation and inclusion in our plans, programs, and services.

We are grateful for their dedication to our community, commitment to progress, and devotion to children.



Board Chair Liz Posey assists with the semi-annual Krispy Kreme Fundraiser.

Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Elizabeth Posey, Chair	Retired	Faith
Jenny Mims, Vice Chair	4K Teacher, Edgefield County School District	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Gail Jackson, Secretary	Retired	Faith
Margaret Childress	Adult Education Teacher, Edgefield County School District	School District Appointee
Bridget Clark	Retired	County Library Appointee
Janice Cleveland	5K Teacher, Edgefield County School District	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Carla Dorn	LPN, CLC, WIC, IZ, Edgefield County DHEC	DHEC Appointee
Cynthia Howard	Teacher, GLEAMNS HRC	ECD Education Provider
Phyllis Lott	Early Head Start Director, GLEAMNS HRC	Early Head Start Appointee
Blair Massey	Attorney	Business Community
Jennifer Satterwhite	Teacher, GLEAMNS HRC	ECD Education Provider
Moronda Talley	County Director, Edgefield County DSS	DSS Appointee
Donna Thompson	EHS Case Manager, SC First Steps	ECD Education Provider
Heather Trotter	Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Peach Tree Medical Center	Healthcare Provider
Amy Wilhelm	5K teacher, Edgefield County School District	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Renee Williams	Family Literacy Director, Edgefield County School District	Family Education Provider

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:

www.scfirststeps.org

for Edgefield County First Steps:

www.edgefieldcountfirststeps.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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