



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child
will be prepared for
success in school.

MARLBORO COUNTY FIRST STEPS CONTINUES TO STRIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

The Marlboro County First Steps (MCFS) Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the Marlboro Community. This can especially be noticed in terms of childcare and parenting. This past year we worked with 25 families who may not receive other parenting services. MCFS continues to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning centers as opposed to babysitting.

Marlboro County First Steps increases the quality of services for children 0-5 and their families

Through our Parents as Teachers parenting program in collaboration with the Marlboro County School District as well as through our childcare scholarship program, we have been able to assure that some of the families with the greatest needs in Marlboro County receive help that they may otherwise not get. Also, parents are required to be actively involved with their children.

Randall S. Johnson
Executive Director



OUR MISSION:

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

Marlboro County First Steps:





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 Marlboro County.

How are Marlboro 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?
1,476 are under age 5	n/a attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	12 licensed child care centers
40.8% live in poverty	122 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	8 licensed group/family homes
21.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	158 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	50% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
13% Babies born with low birthweight	54 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	2 providers are rated B or higher by A B C Quality
28.8% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	17 were served by 	120 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 Early Childhood and  A B C Quality

THE GOALS

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

1. Marlboro County First Steps (MCFS) will work to ensure that families understand the importance of their child's well-being as it relates to early development and preschool.
2. MCFS will ensure that Early Intervention is key tool to determining what's needed for county eligible families.
3. MCFS will support early childhood education in the county through various programs of the partnership.
4. MCFS will continue being involved with the Marlboro County Coordinating Council and others in community through various levels of collaboration.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Marlboro County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **41 children and 37 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 & Scholarship Programs**)
- ✓ **26 staff working in 10 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of 112 children ages 0-5 in their care (Childcare Training)**
- ✓ financial assistance to help **13 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school (**Child Care Scholarships**)
- ✓ **444 books to spark the love of reading for 153 children (Parents As Teachers, Child Care Training, Scholarships)**
- ✓ A total of more than 153 children and 63 adults were impacted by Marlboro 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:

MARLBORO (#278)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	37%	26%	37%
Language & Literacy	26%	44%	30%
Mathematics	37%	40%	24%
Physical Dev & WB	29%	26%	45%
OVERALL	30%	41%	29%

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

Marlboro County First Steps will try to help with future KRA results by collaborating with the Marlboro School District as well as provide trainings that may help the early education teachers.

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

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

- 92% ... live in poverty
- 1% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 1% ... were teen parents



"This is my second year in the MCFS PAT program. Being a young mother the home visits and group meetings have really helped me in terms of interacting with my child."

Yvonne Rivers, MCFS Parent

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	25	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	240	
Hours Spent Serving Families	308.36	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	0.44	A: 1.94 C: 1.77

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 1.75 home visits per family which accounted for over 300 hours spent with families
- ✓ Parent Educators conducted 245 home visits
- ✓ Improved parenting practices write something about your pre-to-post changes KIPS, LSP, or other evidence
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by providing over 130 books to the children in the program

Thank you to our PAT partners!

Marlboro County School District Family Literacy
ABC Child Care

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional

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.

Topic:	Sessions:
Curriculum Activities for the Outdoor Learning Envr.	One Session
Promoting Creative Experiences & Activities	One Session
Responsive Routines, Envr & Strategies Part 1	One Session
Responsive Routines, Envr & Strategies Part 2	One Session
Soc. & Emo. Dev. within context of Relationships	One Session
Let's Get Physical	One Session

Training Sponsored by Marlboro County First Steps, 2017-18

Marlboro County First Steps has continued to help me and my staff as I opened my 2nd childcare center in Marlboro County

Beatrice Young



Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	26
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	26
Number of Training Sessions Offered	3

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 26 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 10 providers and 112 children
- ✓ 11.5 hours of certified training and 11.5 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 10 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our Training partners!

- SC-CCRR
- Marlboro County School District
- SC-CCCD

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 Marlboro 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.

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

- 92% ... live in poverty
- 1% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 1% ... were teen parents
- 2% ... 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.

1. Each one of the participants in our program who receives a scholarship must also participate in the PAT program
2. Every child who receives a scholarship also receives books.

"This was my first year receiving a child care voucher after recently moving here from Virginia. I work full time so needed a good daycare for my child. I really thank First Steps for the help."

Kayla Douglas, MCFS Parent



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	13
Providers Served	5

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 13 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Supported 5 small businesses in Marlboro County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

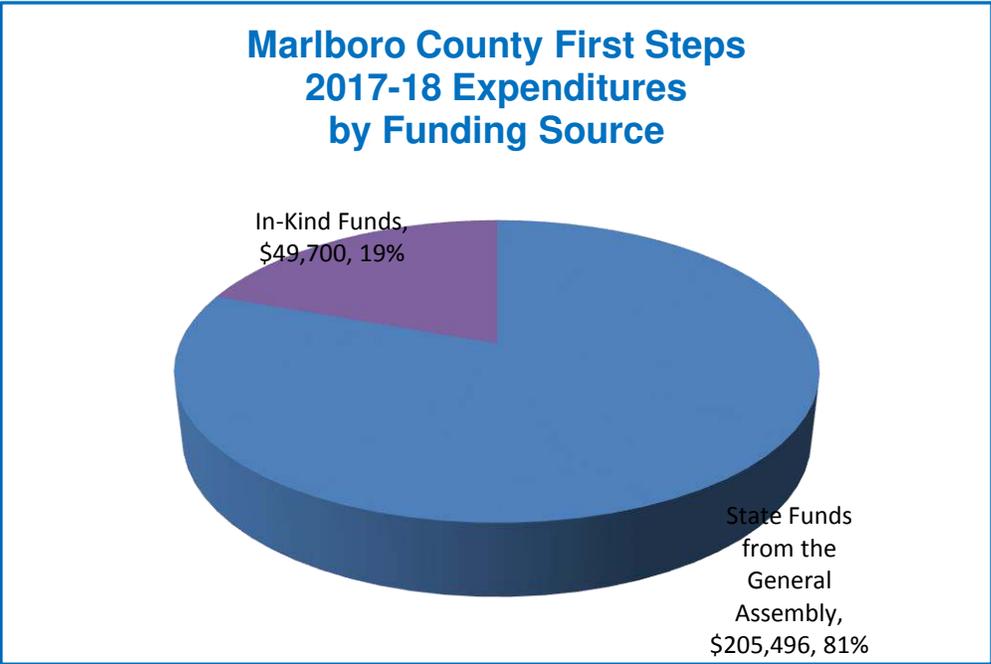
- U.S. Department of Education
- Marlboro County School District Family Literacy
- ABC Child Care

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

Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$255,196

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 24%

*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	\$64,054	\$0	\$0	\$26,900	\$90,954	36%
Child Care Training	\$32,530	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$36,030	14%
Child Care Scholarships	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	14%
Program Support	\$49,435	\$0	\$0	\$13,900	\$63,335	25%
Administrative Support	\$24,477	\$0	\$0	\$5,400	\$29,877	12%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$205,496	\$0	\$0	\$49,700	\$255,196	

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

Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged \$916,980 from sources outside of state government. That's 28 cents for every state dollar.



Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support & contributions, Marlboro County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$205,496
(through South Carolina First Steps)

In-Kind Support

Marlboro County School District
ABC Child Care
SC Resource & Referral
Parker's Used Cars

How your support helps children in Marlboro County:

- ✓ \$20 per family can help the parents in our program at Christmas.

HOW TO GIVE: If you would like to give a tax-deductible donation please send to Marlboro County First Steps, P.O. Box 249, Bennettsville, SC 29512

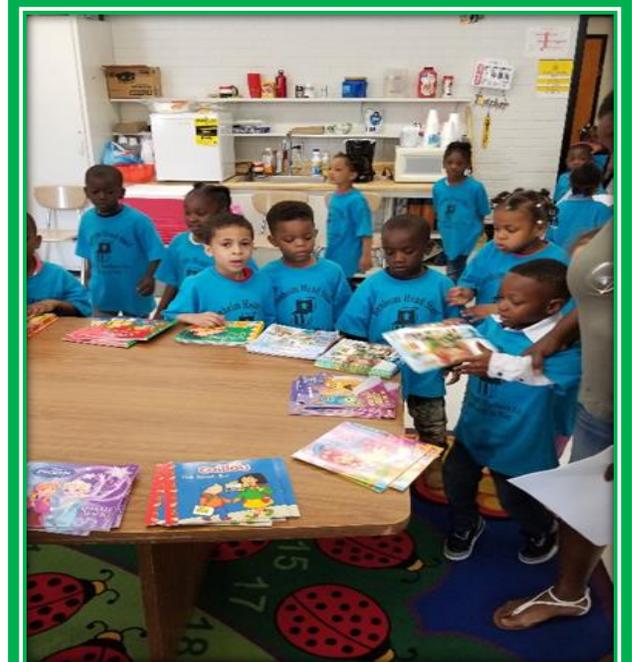
Save the Date!

- Marlboro County First Steps will host a winter fundraiser raffle beginning in January

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

Marlboro County Week of the Young Child Celebration

Marlboro County First Steps received a Champion for Young Children Community Award at the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) kickoff event. MCFS also celebrated the WOYC by going out to read & deliver books to children in our childcare centers. We also hosted a few head start classes who came to our office. MCFS also hosted head start students during their visit to the primary school.



Marlboro County First Steps Board Training

MCFS Board members engaged in board development training.



Marlboro County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Shirley Jones, Chair	Church Community Worker, Bennettsville/Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries	Faith Community
Kennita Graham, Vice Chair	Lead Teacher, Chesterfield-Marlboro	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Loretta Brown	Teacher, Marlboro County HS	Family, Education Training & Support
Theresa Curtis-Willis	Prevention Director/ECHO Coordinator, Rubbicon Family Counseling Services	Business Community
Nidra Ellison	Teacher Assistant, First United Methodist Church	Parent of a Pre-School Child
Bobbie Jo Grooms	Library Director, Marian Wright Edelman Public Library	Agency Designee
Brenda McRae	Teacher, Little Treasures	Pre-K Through Primary Educator
Nichelle Nichols	Outreach Coordinator, Care South Carolina	Healthcare provider
Marlon Prince	McKinney Vento, Marlboro County School District	Agency Designee
Elaine Purvis	Director, Write At Home Daycare	Childcare Development/education Provider
Margaret Quick	Coordinator, Family Literacy, Marlboro County School District	Family, Education Training & Support
Linda Sanders	Program Coordinator, Wallace Family Life Center	Nonprofit organization that provides services to families & children
Geneice Stewart	Human Services Coordinator, Marlboro County DSS	Agency Designee
Renata Stubbs	Income Maintenance Caseworker, DSS (NC)	
Bishop Ulysses Sullivan	Sr. Health Benefit Educ., Select Health of S.C., Bishop, El-Jireth Pentecostal Apostolic Church	Faith Community

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



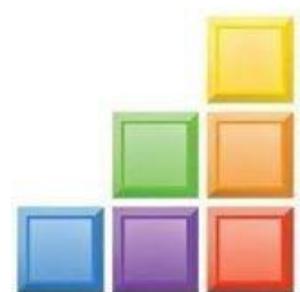
School Transition

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 Marlboro County First Steps find us on Facebook



[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**