

McCORMICK COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Nurse Family Partnership

Early Education for Children Under 4

Child Care Scholarships

Library Literacy

Other Family Literacy—Reach Out and Read

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

All Children in McCormick County enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Web site: McCormickcountyfirststeps.com

PO Box 1060, McCormick, SC 29835 ♦ 864-852-9018 ♦ firststepsmc@wctel.net

Executive Director's Message

High Quality & Collaboration

Two Keys to Success

We continue to maintain high quality service in the programs we offer. Partnering with the department of Social Services, we maintain an A+ rating in our child care center.

Our Parents as Teachers program has attained Blue Ribbon Status—the highest quality rating for a parenting affiliate.

We offer evidence based programs and closely follow the models, in order to get high quality results.

The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment showed McCormick's children exceeded the State average in every category. We are proud of these results but also strive to improve them.

We continue to collaborate with McCormick School District, Carolina Health Centers, Head Start, the Lutheran Church by the Lake, the McCormick Library and Friends of the Library, the Good Shepherd Catholic men's club and many other local groups and organizations. These collaborations allow us to provide services, at the least possible cost, to the children we serve.



**Ruth Detrick,
Executive Director**

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the McCormick County First Steps Partnership is to improve the healthy development and school readiness of preschool children and their families by fostering collaboration and supporting quality early childhood programs that meet the needs of our children and families.

Ruth Detrick

Find McCormick 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 McCormick County.

How are McCormick 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?
303 are under age 5	Not available attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	3 licensed child care centers
33.6% live in poverty	37 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	1 licensed group/family homes
11.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	33 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	50% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
67% Of children live in a single parent family	Not available 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	50% providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
55% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	Not available were served by 	32 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 McCormick County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Increase the number of families with the capacity to support their child's healthy development, particularly among underserved populations (rural/outlying areas, non-English speakers).
2. Ensure children's emotional, social, cognitive and physical development through high-quality programs and enrichment activities; engaging parents in inquiry based activities; and by involving the business community in funding these programs to enrich their future workforce.
3. Enhance leadership development and capacity building in child care providers and teachers to ensure they are prepared to meet the unique, individual needs of all students.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, McCormick County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **19 children and 18 adults** with **intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being **through Parents as Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership programs.**
- ✓ financial assistance to help **22 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school **through the Child Care Scholarships program.**
- ✓ **3176 books** to **spark the love of reading** were given to children in our programs, in other centers, and in our community through our literacy programs, our child care center and community outreach.
- ✓ a total of **81 children and 80 adults** were impacted by McCormick County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

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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:

McCormick School District (42 Children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	17%	55%
Language&Literacy	2%	45%	52%
Mathematics	19%	45%	36%
Physical Dev&WB	12%	19%	69%
OVERALL	17%	29%	55%

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 McCormick County First Steps Doing to Improve KRA results:

- We use Creative Curriculum in our Child Care Center and we've recently updated all our child care providers on this curriculum
- We are doing bi-weekly professional development with 0-4 teachers
- We are using the CLASS assessment to evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions
- We are providing coaching support
- We are expanding our child care center to serve 4 year old children and hiring another child care provider, thus reducing the ratio in the toddler classroom
- We have all of our children enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and in our Library Literacy program to improve reading and literacy skills

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

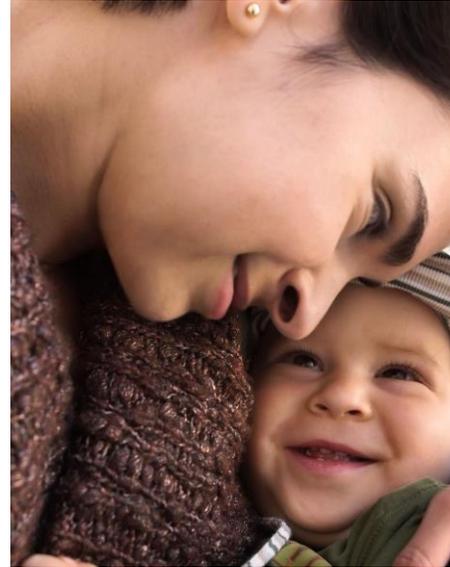
Program Description

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 McCormick County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Carolina Health Centers

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

- 100% ... low income / TANF eligible
- 100% ... single mothers
- 67% ... did not have HS diploma



NFP by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	4
Number of Home Visits	50

Client Quotes:

“My nurse helps me think carefully about things so I can make good decisions.”

“My nurse helps me feel good about becoming/being a mother.”

“My nurse helps me figure out how to get the services I need.”

This year, our NFP program

- ✓ 100% indicated being “Very Satisfied” on NFP client satisfaction surveys
- ✓ One child with learning and motor skill delays was referred to BabyNet; he is in physical therapy and was showing progress by the time of NFP graduation.
- ✓ No clients had a second pregnancy while in NFP
- ✓ None of the infants were born at low birth weight or preterm and none required NICU care after delivery
- ✓ 75% of clients worked at some point during their time in NFP

Thank you to our NFP partners!

- Carolina Health Centers
- Edgefield County First Steps
- Lutheran Church by the Lake

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Parents as 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

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

- 100% ... live in poverty, eligible for TANF
- 33% ... developmental delays
- 42% ... were single parents in need of other services

Quotes from Clients:

“Being able to talk to the parent educator about anything has been most helpful.”

“Someone showing concern and receiving books and handouts has been great.”

On Satisfaction Surveys:

88% replied that they were very satisfied with this program

100% said they would recommend this program to a friend.



Parent Educator with PAT families at local Gold Rush Parade and Festival

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	14	
Children Served	15	
Total Home Visits	370	
Hours Spent Serving Families	421	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS .05	ACIRI .19

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 28 home visits per family (100% met the standard of at least 2 visits per month)
- ✓ 100% of children received ASQ Assessment. Seven potential developmental delays were identified and addressed
- ✓ 4 families received scholarships to help with child care expenses
- ✓ 68 connections were made to needed services

Thank you to our PAT partners!

- McCormick County School District
- Even Start Child Care
- Lutheran Church by the Lake

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Library Literacy

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

To improve our children’s literacy skills, we provide story time twice each month. At each session each child receives a book to take home and keep. To further increase pre-reading skills, twice each month a music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes. In addition, art projects and special events are provided as part of this program.

Target Population

Approximately 65 children from the First Steps child care center and the Head Start classrooms are served in this program. All children have at least one board-approved risk factor

Service Delivery

The director from our Public Library reads stories and does activities with children twice each month. A volunteer music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes twice each month. Art projects are provided by the local arts council and by volunteers from the Lutheran Church. Special music and literacy events are also provided.

Staffing and Qualifications

The library director has many years of experience and does a wonderful job. The music volunteer is a former elementary music teacher and knows exactly how to work with pre-school children. Our other volunteers are either former elementary teachers or have an expertise in certain types of art or music.

Assessment

The teachers and child care providers evaluate each class of children on listening skills, with the hope that the skills improve throughout the year. Teachers are surveyed to determine improvement in pre-literacy skills, based on their observation.

100% of Head Start Teachers and Child Care Providers surveyed rated this program as “Very Valuable”.

100% of Head Start teachers surveyed said that this program improved all six of the pre-reading skills necessary for a child to learn to read.

Quote from a teacher:

“This program is wonderful and the children really enjoy storytime, art and music.”

Library Literacy by the Numbers, 2017-18

# Adults Served	131
# Children Served	100
# Stories read	165
# Songs Sung	238
# Activities	176
# Books Given	965



Special Music Event with Bob Linsenmayer

This year, our Library Literacy program:

- Increased the children’s listening skills from 2.6 to 4.6 (on a scale of 1-5) from the first half of the year to the second half
- In December the children received a visit from Santa who gave each of them a book
- In the spring, the children were presented with a special, professional puppet show

Thank you to our Library Literacy partners!

- McCormick Public Library
- McCormick Arts Council

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Library Literacy meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an *evidence-informed* program.



Other Family Literacy— Reach Out and Read

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

Program Description

- We provide 75% of the funds to serve approximately 20 children in McCormick’s Reach Out and Read Program.
- At every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and offer age-appropriate tips.
- Parents, who may have difficulty reading, will be encouraged to invent their own stories to go with picture books and to spend time naming objects with their children.
- At each well-child visit, providers will give every child, between the ages of six months and five years, a new, developmentally appropriate children’s book to keep.



Fidelity:

Doctors and nurses at McCormick Family Practice have been trained in the Reach Out and Read model. The Reach Out and Read South Carolina Center monitors our program to ensure that the model is being implemented with fidelity.

Reach Out and Read by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	20
Books Given to Children 0-5	40

Facts about our Reach Out & Read program:

- ✓ This program has an overall “green” quality rating, which is given after multiple points of evaluation by our Program Specialist. A “green” rating is the highest rating of quality and indicates compliance with the ROR model.
- ✓ Progress report numbers demonstrate that each child seen in the clinic for a well-child visit received a ROR book—a 100% compliance rate.
- ✓ Survey results showed that returning ROR parents were more likely to be using one or more of the recommended strategies with their child. Strategies include: letting child turn the pages, pointing out pictures, taking children to the library, etc.

Thank you to our Reach Out & Read partners!

- McCormick Family Practice
- Scholastic Books

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Reach Out & Read meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an *evidence-based* program.



Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in McCormick 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

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 88% ... single mothers in need of other services
- 19% ... were teen parents
- 19% ... had developmental delays

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.

In McCormick we integrate our scholarship program with Parents as Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership. We give our families in those programs priority when offering scholarships. We also integrate this program with our library literacy program. All children who receive scholarships attend the Even Start Child Care Center, which is an A+ rated center.

A scholarship to the Even Start Child Care Center allows me to have gainful employment and quality child care. I don't have to worry when my child is there!
Laneshia Kelly



Children on a field trip to the train depot in McCormick.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	22
Providers Served	1

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 22 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ 100% of children received ASQ developmental screenings. Six delays were identified and addressed
- ✓ 100% of children were connected to our Library Literacy program
- ✓ 100% of families attend training on how to choose quality child care and also a presentation by our public library director on the importance of reading and books in the home.

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- McCormick School District
- Even Start Child Care Center
- McCormick Public Library

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence-based program:
 Early Education for Children Under 4



Early Education for Children Under 4

Children involved in high-quality preschool are more likely to have better academic outcomes.

Program Description

This program provides quality child care for infants and toddlers. We focus on the most at-risk children, especially those children with multiple risk factors and developmental delays.

We use certified child care providers, who continually increase their knowledge of early childhood development through training each year.

We maintain high ABC Enhanced and ITERS scores and use Creative Curriculum for infants and toddlers to help improve children’s vocabularies.

Measurements

To measure the quality of the classrooms, we use the official ABC report from DSS. In addition we use an independent evaluation—The Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale.

To measure increases in children’s vocabularies, we use the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

To ensure that children with developmental delays receive necessary services, we use Ages and Stages and teacher and parent reports to determine developmental delays or concerns.

Early Education by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	42
Providers Served	1

Quotes from Clients:

“This program is amazing. My child has learned so much since attending.”

“They provide a safe learning environment for my child. They are helping her get adjusted to a schedule so she can succeed when she gets to school.”

“The education and activities were on point and coincide with what my child is learning at home.”



Children’s Field Trip to the Nativity Scene at the Lutheran Church by the Lake

This year, our Early Education program:

- ✓ Made it possible for 42 children to attend quality preschool
- ✓ This program maintained our A+ quality rating from DSS. Our most recent ITERS score is 5.05
- ✓ 100% of the children in the center received developmental screenings and 100% of children with developmental delays are receiving services

Thank you to our partners!

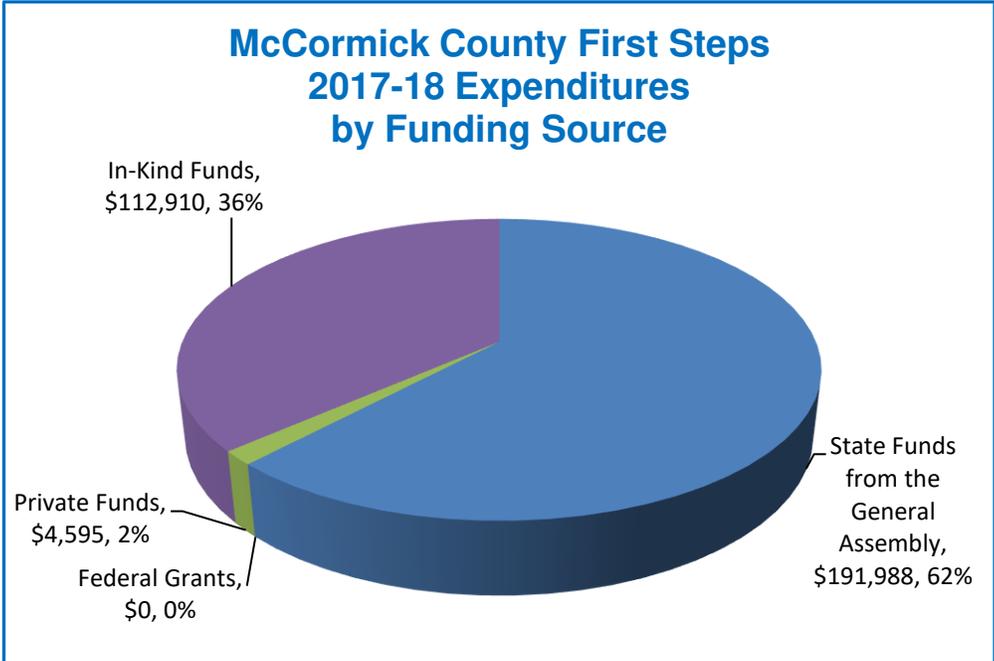
- McCormick County School District
- Women of the Lutheran Church by the Lake
- DSS-ABC Technical Assistance Support

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership’s Early Education program meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an *evidence-based* program.



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$309,493

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 61%

*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	\$18,657	\$0	\$285	\$41,127	\$60,069	19%
Other Family Literacy--ROR	\$816	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$816	0%
Library Based Literacy	\$13,303	\$0	\$1,989	\$0	\$15,292	5%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,750	\$18,750	6%
Early Ed for Children Under 4	\$82,679	\$0	\$182	\$61,908	\$144,769	47%
Scholarship Initiatives	\$30,554	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,554	10%
Program Support	\$20,632	\$0	\$1,103	\$2,825	\$24,560	8%
Administrative Support	\$10,346	\$0	\$1,036	\$3,300	\$14,682	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$191,987	\$0	\$4,595	\$112,910	\$309,492	

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

Since inception, McCormick First Steps has leveraged \$2,430,062 from sources outside of state government. That's 80 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, McCormick 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)
- Good Shepherd Catholic Men: \$1000
- Lutheran Men in Mission: \$1000
- Friends of the Library: \$1000
- Milliken Foundation: \$1000
- McCormick Lions Club: \$400
- Lutheran Church by the Lake: \$250
- Women of Good Shepherd Catholic Church: \$200
- Women of the Lutheran Church by the Lake: \$125
- McCormick Garden Club: \$100

In-Kind Support

- McCormick County School District
- Carolina Health Centers, Inc.
- Kathie & Bill Essex
- Tom & Judy Castarino

Donations made by churches and individuals through our annual fund raising letter

\$2770

Funds Raised by our Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting

\$184

How your support helps children in McCormick County:

- ✓ \$50 provides a child care scholarship for one child for one week
- ✓ \$27 provides books for one child for a year in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program
- ✓ \$300 provides a book to each child in our library literacy program.

HOW TO GIVE: Mail contributions to McCormick County First Steps, P. O. Box 1060, McCormick, SC 29835

Volunteers

We have wonderful volunteers in McCormick County. During this fiscal year we had 348 hours of volunteer time donated to our partnership. In addition to our board members who volunteer their time, we have local residents come to provide music, stories, art and activities. We also have a group of women from the Lutheran Church by the Lake who provide special events and field trips for the children in our child care center. We are truly blessed by our amazing volunteers.

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

Community Impact

Making Sure Both Clients and the General Public Know about McCormick First Steps

We have created a community education and outreach plan, in order to make sure the families with young children in McCormick County are aware of our programs and services. We attend community events and use those events to spread the word about First Steps. We give children books, and hand out advertising material with our logo. We also use these events to recruit for our programs and to get Dolly Parton Imagination Library applications completed.



Board Chair and Executive Director at Gold Rush Festival



Executive Director at SC Blue Way Festival, held at Baker Creek State Park

We have also created a Web Site for McCormick First Steps and update it and our Facebook page, regularly, with announcements about upcoming events. We use this social media to recruit for our programs and share pictures and information about activities and events that are taking place in our programs. Our web site is: mccormickcountyfirststeps.com.

Part of our plan includes convening community meetings around the needs of preschool children and their families. We also make presentations at other community meetings, social organizations and churches. At one of our community meetings this year, we worked together with several other local organizations to compile, print and distribute a resource directory for families with young children in McCormick.



Hats, Scarves, and Stuffed Animals donated by ladies of the Lutheran Church

We have strong partnerships with several local churches, who support us financially and with donations of items and time. Families in our child care center and in our NFP program received JOY boxes at the holidays filled with clothes, toys, and practical items. The children in the child care center have been taken on field trips and provided with entertainment, reading and art activities. When the public knows about us and what we do for the young children in McCormick, they want to help and be a part of our success.



Each child in PAT and the child care center received a hand-made quilt

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

First Steps Partnership Board

McCormick First Steps Board Members are THE BEST!

Our board members are wonderful about participating at meetings and events. They contribute items for our silent auction fundraiser that we hold at our annual meeting. They all help with our annual fundraising event by sending letters to friends and family asking for donations. Some members come to help us at community events and represent First Steps at other community meetings. Some help decorate and prepare the meal for our annual celebration. Our partnership would not be nearly as strong and successful without the support of the following board members:

Name	Position	Board Category
Michalle Anderson	Teacher, McCormick Head Start	Head Start Appointee
Karen Beckner	McCormick School Board Member	Family Education, Training and Support
Paul Brown, Chair	Director, McCormick Public Library	Library Appointee
Shanikque Blackwell	Dept. of Health and Environmental Control	DHEC Appointee
Luella Crosby	Retired, McCormick School District	Family Education, Training and Support
Nadine Freeman	John de la Howe School	Healthcare Provider
Deborah Gunter	Teacher, GLEAMNS Early Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Daisy Johnson	Retired Head Start Director	Early Childhood Education
Nathan McCasline	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Heather McNally	Program Director, McCormick Arts Council	Other Non-Profit—MACK
Shirley Middleton	Child Care Provider, Even Start Center	Child Care Provider
Kevin Rasberry	Legal Ed	Business Community
Robbie Seigler	Director, Dept. of Social Services	DSS Appointee
Mary Thompson	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Pamela Turman	McCormick School District	MSD Appointee
Mae Phillips Turner	Retired	Other Non-Profit—Friends of the Library

What is First Steps?

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



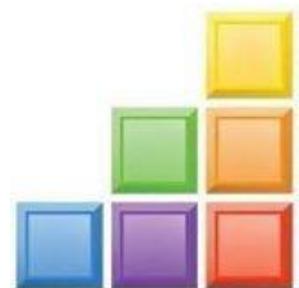
School Transition

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
scfirststeps.org

for McCormick County First Steps:
mccormickcountyfirststeps.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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