



THE NEED

IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



IN KERSHAW COUNTY:

3,882

children under age 5

41.6%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

72%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

Through community collaboration, KCFS will provide access to resources and support for families, enabling children to enter school ready to learn.

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

OUR IMPACT

1160

number of children and adults served by Kershaw County First Steps in 2018-2019

JOIN US

We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

110 E. DeKalb Street, Camden SC 29021 | 803-432-7756 | website: kershawfirststeps.org

Data provided by:



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

Center for American Progress



SC Profile
Early Childhood



Kimberley Jordan
Executive Director
Kershaw County First Steps

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We want to thank you for your support of Kershaw County First Steps and all that we are attempting to do for our children and their families. We feel that the enclosed Annual Report of the past year is a valuable tool to share with you. From a programmatic standpoint, 2018-2019 was a year of continued achievement. We received financial and other resources from various sources and continued to be good stewards of the money entrusted to us. Our outreach events continue to be a valuable tool for sharing these programs with the Kershaw County community, while encouraging participation and support.

Thank you for your support and partnership—it means everything! We look forward to strengthening these partnerships in the coming year because together, we can make a difference for our children today and especially for tomorrow!

Kimberley Jordan

OUR GOALS

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

1. Leadership as a Convener & Partner
2. Make Programs and Community Resources Accessible
3. Increase Public Awareness
4. Capacity Building

The Parents as Teachers program has helped me to continue working with my children. One special goal was for my husband to be home every night. Our Parent Educator helped my husband to update his resume through the Unemployment Workforce, he is now working locally and home every night. "Thank you, Kershaw First Steps!"

Lindsey Sorrow, Parents as Teachers' Parent



EARLY IDENTIFICATION & REFERRAL



an evidence-based program

First Steps' Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development, 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:



Screenings for children ages 0-5 with suspected delays in development



Referrals, based on screening results, to appropriate resources and support services



Patient information including strategies to monitor growth and development

EI&R BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

73

children served

443

materials distributed

12

referrals to BabyNet or other local services

I am thankful to First Steps for giving my son assessments and referring us to the Parents as Teachers program. It's good to know we have that support"

Cierra DuBose, Parent EIR

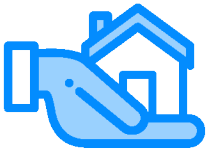


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



an evidence-based program

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:



Personal visits from a parent educator at least twice monthly



Monthly group connections with other PAT families



Screenings and assessments to identify developmental concerns



Connections to outside resources that families may need to succeed



PAT IN THE NEWS

PAT recently received the highest rating from the federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This recognition validates the effectiveness of Parents as Teachers as a strategy for improving parenting practices, promoting early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, and enhancing school readiness and success.

PAT IN KERSHAW COUNTY 2018-2019

29

families served

502

total home visits

Over 127 books were distributed during the home visits and parent meetings.



Parents as Teachers®



COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

1

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

3

children served

18

total home and school
visits



My daughter is ready for school. The bookbag was a great starter. The items were used to kickstart our summer learning fun.

**Tammie Smith, Parent of Countdown to Kindergarten
parent**





QualityCounts

CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



an evidence-based program

Many private child care centers strive to provide high quality care but lack the resources often available to publicly-funded early childhood programs. Our Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) program aims to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.

Our services include:



Rigorous quality assessments



On-site technical assistance at least twice monthly



Funding for equipment and materials



Training and workforce development



Coordination with community partners

QE BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

5

child care providers served

102

number of TA visits provided

349

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

“Every day, is a new learning experience at my child’s school. I thank, Kershaw County First Steps for the new toys in the room that allowed my child to thrive.”

Betty Hillmon, Parent of Preschooler

4K

FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-based program

South Carolina First Steps provides eligible children with free enrollment in full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 200 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality child care across the state.



ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must:

- ✓ Be 4 years old on or before September 1
- ✓ Qualify for Medicaid or a free or reduced-price lunch program
- ✓ Live in one of 64 qualifying school districts

FIRST STEPS 4K IN KERSHAW COUNTY 2018-2019

58

children enrolled

3

participating classrooms

4K NEWS

In fiscal year 2019-2020, South Carolina First Steps is launching a pilot program to expand 4K enrollment within underserved communities. Age- and income-eligible children residing in any SC school district may qualify for a slot in a participating center that also serves students from eligible districts.





LITERACY PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Raising A Reader (RAR) is a rotating lending library in which students receive a red bag containing 4 books weekly. Books are fiction, non fiction, and culturally diverse. Parents and teachers are provided with workshops to help develop early literacy skills and healthy personal relationships with their children. At the end of the year, classes and parents visit the library for a tour and for students to obtain their own library card. This allows families to continue the love of reading with their child. Students then receive their own blue bag for library books.

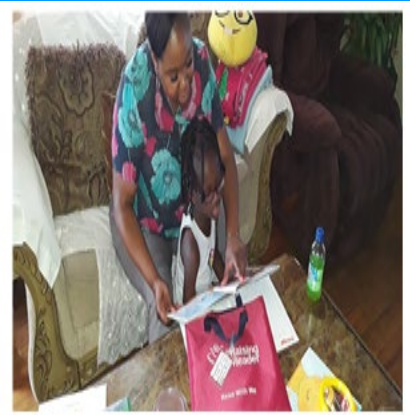
RAISING A READER BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

57

families served

4

providers served



Parents shared with me that they like the convenience. The books come to them. They like the book variety. The children really like the nonfiction stories with the REAL pictures!

Patrice Davis, Raising A Reader Coordinator



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Kershaw County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Kershaw County begin school ready to succeed. We serve as a:

LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and
their families to services

CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective
and comprehensive early childhood system

CHAMPION

of the importance of school
readiness to our children's future

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

89

Families served
community education

176

Materials distributed
community education

I enthusiastically recommend Kershaw County First Steps as a partner for community events and workshops and the development of early care and education services. I recognize KCFS' commitment to also provide referrals and hands-on assistance...I understand the value that early intervention services bring to the Kershaw community

Margaret Lawhorn, Director -Mentor Program



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

United Way of Kershaw County, \$12,000
United Way of Midlands, \$700
Kershaw Clergy, \$723

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Kershaw County Department of Social Services
Bethesda Christian School
Kershaw County Library
United Way of Kershaw County
Williams Plumbing Company
Kershaw County School District
Montessori School of Camden
Sandhill Medical Foundation
Clemson Extension Family Community Building
Total Tech
Kershaw County First Steps Board of Directors

JOIN US

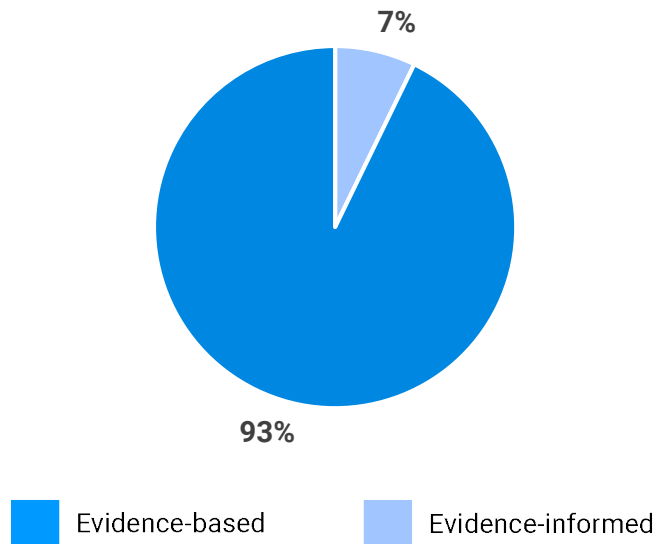
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
kershawfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,599,011** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$40.14** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$66,173	\$	\$129	\$6,600	\$72,902
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$51,684	\$	\$529	\$	\$52,213
Early Identification Referrals	\$21,107	\$	\$71	\$	\$21,178
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$15,216	\$	\$623	\$	\$15,839
Raising A Reader Enhanced	\$17,905	\$	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$41,905
Core Function	\$12,858	\$	\$	\$	\$12,858
Administrative Support	\$20,618	\$	\$71	\$	\$20,689
Total Expenses	\$205,561	\$	\$13,423	\$18,600	\$237,584



LEADERSHIP

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Patrice Davis, Early Childhood Coordinator
Jessica Clea, Parent Educator

CONTACT US

110 E. DeKalb St. Camden, SC 29020 | 803-432-7756 | kershawfirststeps.org

