

Who We Serve

First Steps serves children pre-birth to 5 years old and their families who are at risk of not being ready for school.

Number of York County children under 6:

18,954

Number of York County children under 6 living in poverty:

3750

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Training

Child Care Vouchers

Free Medical Clinic

Community Based Literacy

Our Results

- ✓ Over 90 Children were served through our Countdown to Kindergarten Program.
- ✓ Between Training Hours and Technical Assistance to Child Care Providers, the quality of care was enhanced for over 2500 children.
- ✓ Over 550 at risk preschool children received free medical services.

Improving the Lives of our Children.

David W. Lisk, Sr., Executive Director

This past year, with the continued support of our community partners, York County First Steps deepened our impact on the children of York County that may enter school not fully prepared. Families continue to struggle in their efforts to provide the basic necessities to their children in the current economic conditions. Our focus is to assist parents of these at risk children to provide their children with the needed elements to achieve success not only in school but also in life. For York County First Steps to be successful in achieving our mission, our partnerships and collaborations are critical.

Our Partnership with the four School Districts – York, Clover, Rock Hill, and Fort Mill

York County First Steps has worked to nurture our growing partnership with the four school districts in our County. The four Family Resource Centers, primarily supported by the School Districts, continue to provide the critical hub of services for parents and at risk children. Here parents come and receive needed direction and services as they work to provide their children with the opportunities that quality education can provide. Our newest achievement from this year is the transition of our previous Child Care Vouchers to focus on Teenage Parents that need childcare services as they work to complete their high school education. As a key component of this program a Parent Educator is assigned to the parent. This Parent Educator helps to provide parenting assistance as the new parent works to balance parental responsibilities with the demands of completing the requirements to earn their diploma.

Our Partnership with our Child Care Providers

Over many years, York County First Steps has worked to develop positive and interactive relationships with the network of Child Care Providers located in York County. These providers range from family homes to larger centers, with all seeking to provide nurturing, caring environments that provide quality programs designed to prepare children for success. Although we concentrate on 12 Child Care Providers each year in our Quality Enhancement Program, we work to maintain contact with as many of our centers throughout the year by helping with technical issues and training opportunities. This relationship has borne further fruit as our Providers have helped YCFS with the Teenage Parents Voucher Program in the form of discounts.

Board Chair
Cindy Hunt

Executive Director
David W. Lisk, Sr.

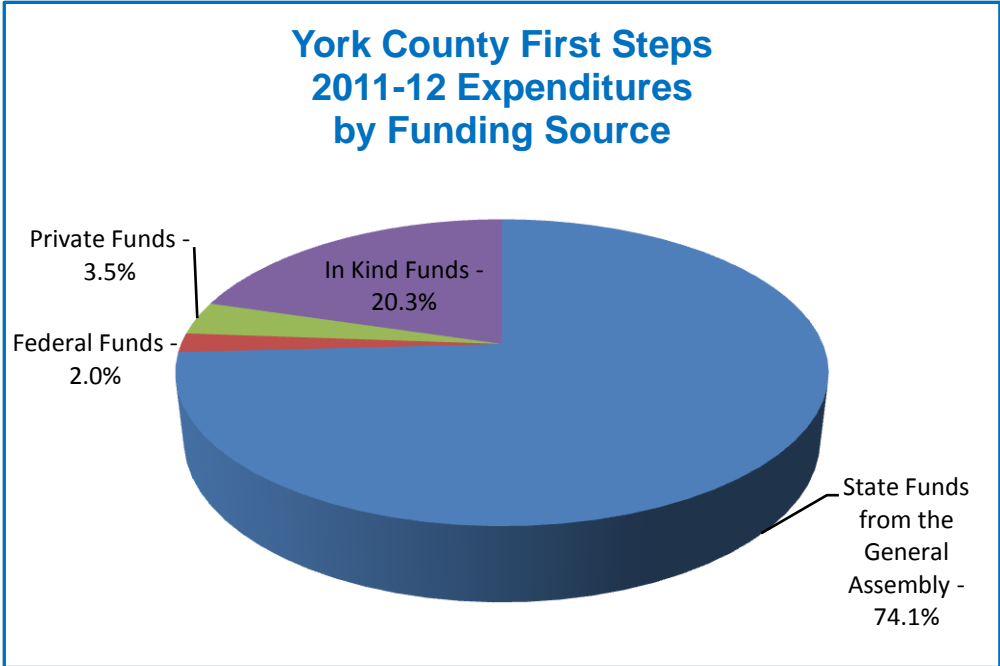
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Financial Impact



Total 2011-12 Expenditures: \$587,840

State Funds Leveraged*: 35%

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

2011-12 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2011-12 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$107,644	\$0	\$0	\$31,203	\$138,847	24%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$18,988	\$7,321	\$17,500	\$0	\$43,809	7%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$116,781	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$117,981	20%
Child Care Training	\$11,994	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$13,194	2%
Child Care Scholarships	\$51,837	\$4,544	\$0	\$0	\$56,381	10%
Other Program	\$8,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$72,000	\$83,000	14%
Program Support	\$79,761	\$0	\$0	\$9,000	\$88,761	15%
Administrative Support	\$40,516	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$45,516	8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$435,521	\$11,865	\$20,500	\$119,603	\$587,489	

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

Paradise Reading Center – Fort Mill

Spark of an idea grows into full fledged reading center for children.

Several years ago, in the midst of severe economic conditions, the York County First Steps Partnership Board began to look for ideas that could expand our reach with little to no funding. One of our guiding imperatives was how to reach out to the at risk families that may be in need of our services but unaware of our programs. As part of our deliberations, we felt that there were community and faith based organizations that reach our desired population on a routine basis. Our objective was to partner with such organizations to provide the needed services in a safe and nurturing environment. We could help expand literacy concepts to the children and their families and provide the parents with parenting skills helpful in the dynamic circumstances that they deal with each day. Additionally, we have the opportunity to help children and their families that need more intensive interventions connect to the needed services to help their child achieve school readiness before they enter school. This was the “Spark of an idea”.



The Birth and Growth of the Paradise Reading Center

Through the collaboration of the Fort Mill School District and one of their School Board Members we were connected to an alliance of local churches in the Paradise Neighborhood of Fort Mill where we found a very willing and open partner. This group of pastors and volunteer took our “spark” to increase exposure of literacy activities for preschool children to opening a full fledged Reading Center serving 30-40 children each Monday and Wednesday afternoon. A third of these children are preschool age and the interactions of volunteers and mix of older children provide for a vibrant and enthusiastic environment for learning. The Paradise Reading Center has become a beacon to the at risk children and their families in the Fort Mill area and our efforts to provide the age appropriate books, materials and teaching resources has been multiplied many times over and will pay future dividends for many years to come.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina
(through South Carolina First Steps)

United Way of York County

Rotary Club of Rock Hill

Fort Mill School District

York County First Steps Partnership Board

In-Kind Support

York School District #1

Clover School District #2

Rock Hill School District #3

The Early Learning Partnership

Community Impact

Helping Teenage Parents Complete High School

Providing Child Care Vouchers and Parenting Skills

For many years York County First Steps provided Child Care Vouchers for families that meet basic eligibility requirements very similar to the ABC Voucher Program run by the Department of Social Services. This year, based on recommendations from an Adhoc Committee of Partnership Board Members, we began to transition our Child Care Voucher Program to concentrate on Teenage Parents that are working to complete their High School Degree. A statewide program was a victim of budget reductions in recent years and in many cases, the absence of help with child care expenses was the major impediment to the parent completing their high school diploma requirement. Our focus was to provide access to high quality care for the young child, parenting skills for the young parent, and help for maintaining the balance between student and parent. We worked in partnership with the Family Resource Centers (Parent Educators), High Schools (Guidance Counselors), and Child Care Providers (Discounts in Tuition Cost to YCFS), to service teenage parents as we transitioned from our earlier program. In our first year 30% graduated with their class, 30% were reenrolled since they were not seniors this year. An additional 20% moved out of the state to live with other family members which provided for an overall success rate of 80% in our first year.



Numbers Served by York CountyFirst Steps in 2011-12

	Number of Children 0-5 Served	Number of Parents/ Adult Family Members Served	Number of Early Childhood Staff Trained	Number of Child Care Providers, Head Start Centers, and Schools Served	Number of Training Hours Provided to Early Childhood Staff and Parents	Number of Staff Positions Supported Within First Steps		Number of Staff Supported Within Partner Organizations Using FS Funds	
						FT/PT	Other	FT/PT	Other
Parents as Teachers	46	46	3		9			3	
Child Care Scholarships	26	39		9	12	1			
Countdown to Kindergarten	92	92	13	7	39				13
Child Care Quality Enhancement	660		57	12	532	2			
Child Care Training	1557		346	45	38				
Other Programming						1			
TOTAL Number Served	2381	177	419	73	630	4	0	3	13

Parents as Teachers

Parents play an irreplaceable role in their child's development.

Program Description

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) model is an evidence-based early childhood home visiting framework for families with children prenatal through kindergarten entry that builds strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to learn.

Program Components

- 1. Personal Visits** are designed to meet the needs of each individual family with intensity ranging anywhere from twice monthly to weekly.
- 2. Group Connections** are provided monthly to ensure families build social connections with each other and learn new ways to support their child's development.
- 3. Screening** is done on a regular basis for each child's health and developmental progress.
- 4. Resource and Referral Network** connects families to needed resources, strengthening protective factors and fostering positive change.

The School Districts, through the Family Resource Centers actively seek the at risk children and their families to receive PAT services.

Risk Factor Profile:

% in Poverty	100%
% < HS Diploma	78%
% Teenage Parent	15%

PAT Outcomes

- ✓ Increase parent knowledge of child development and improve parenting practices
- ✓ Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Prevent child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Increase children's school readiness and school success

First Steps PAT programs measure progress through pre/post assessments of parenting skills using the Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS) and the Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI).

Thank you to our partners!

- York School District #1
- Clover School District #2
- Rock Hill School District #3

Why PAT Works

Clients in First Steps home visitation programs, including PAT, saw **significant increases in their pre- and post-assessments.** Overall, **54%** of participants who scored at a low quality of parenting improved to a moderate quality of parenting, **44%** who had moderate parenting skills moved to high quality, and **11.9%** who had low quality parenting at pre-test increased their skills to high quality.

*First Steps Evaluation
 High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009*

"The Family Educator has helped me with her words to lift up my self-esteem and to feel more confident on how to help my son."

Rock Hill PAT Parent

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ Through our 3 Partners, York, Clover, and Rock Hill School Districts, York County First Steps' funds were able to add an additional 46 families to their PAT Programs.
- ✓ Over 250 children receive the PAT Program and Services throughout York County through our strong collaborations with the local school districts.
- ✓ Each Partner is well on their way to recertifying under the new PAT Standards.

PAT by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$8,000	\$107,644
Federal Funds	\$137,000	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$44,781	\$31,203
Total	\$189,781	\$138,874*
State \$ Leveraged	31%	29%
*One PAT Vendor dropped Service in 2011-12		
Families Served	52	46
Cost per Family	\$3,650	\$3,019
Number of Visits	1312	943
Cost per Visit	\$145	\$147

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Community Literacy

Literacy is the skill that unlocks the gates of opportunity and success.

- President Barak Obama

Program Description

York County First Steps is developing partnerships and collaborations with Community and Faith Based Organizations that serve at risk populations within our County. The partners that we establish programs with already serve at risk children and their families and provide a nurturing and caring environment where the families have developed a sense of trust. Our partners have the children and families and typically need direction, some training on literacy activities and access to age appropriate books, all of which, YCFS can provide. The goals for the Literacy Initiative are:

1. Begin to close the literacy gap for at risk children – There is a significant gap in the hours of literacy based activities for a child of a middle class family when compared to a child of a family in poverty. This gap can create a lack of readiness when entering school that is difficult if not impossible to bridge.
2. Parent Education: provides instruction on how children grow, develop, and learn. It connects parents with community resources, and provides opportunities for parents to network and develop mutual support systems.
3. Interactive Parent/Child Activities: provides parents and children the opportunity to share their newly developed literacy experiences.
4. Identifying Children that need more intensive interventions: As the programs and workshops are provided to the children and parents, any child that appears to need more intensive interventions will be referred to the proper service provider to connect to such services.

One of the main objectives that came from the First Steps Vision 2013 review was to find the most at risk children to insure that their needs are being met if at all possible. In many poverty settings, children are remaining in home situations and do not see a structured educational setting until they enter school. Our partnership through these organizations provides access to these preschool children so that they can be referred to early interventions well before they enter school.

Thank you to our partners!

- United Way of York County
- Paradise Reading Center
- United Church Alliance of Fort Mill
- Rotary Club of Rock Hill

Why Family Literacy Works

Children have a natural curiosity regarding the world around them. When this curiosity is met with encouraging and stimulating interaction this curiosity can evolve into a passion for learning. Our Community and Faith Based Literacy Initiative is designed to meet the children and their families where they are and demonstrate how simple literacy based activities can make a tremendous difference in the school readiness of their child. Being fully prepared for school can provide the necessary foundation for the child to reach their fullest potential.

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ 30-40 Children, 10-15 are preschool age, are being served 2 days a week in the Paradise Reading Center.
- ✓ Other partners are being cultivated in Rock Hill, Clover and York to reach the at risk children and their families.
- ✓ Volunteer and Parenting Workshops are being provided by the four School Districts and Volunteer help is coming from York Technical College and Winthrop University.

Family Literacy by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$2,000	\$3,000
In-Kind Funds	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,000	\$3,000
State \$ Leveraged	0%	0%

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Getting children ready for school.

Countdown to Kindergarten



Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a First Steps program based on other successful school transition models from around the country. Its goals are:

- ✓ to increase the successful transition of South Carolina’s most at-risk children into the K-12 school system;
- ✓ 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.

Program Components

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Visits are hour-long sessions whereby children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit (backpack filled with books, puzzles, clay, blocks, floor mats, etc.) to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall. Early in August a CTK Celebration is planned to host the children and their families to a meal and celebration of their child’s accomplishment. We build on their excitement by providing additional school supplies and books for the children and help the parents learn about other community resources to help their children excel in their efforts.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to statewide media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

Each of the 4 York County School Districts identify the children that are in need of the CTK Program and typically rely on Kindergarten enrollments into Title I schools in their respective districts.

Partner school districts place as many CTK children as possible in their home visitor’s classroom for kindergarten, thereby building upon the teacher-child and parent-teacher relationships built over the summer.

Thank you to our partners!

- York, Clover, Rock Hill, and Fort Mill SD
- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Williams and Fudge and their Employees
- Parker Funeral Home

Why CTK Works

Kindergarten teachers reported that **CTK children have greater familiarity, confidence and excitement** about attending kindergarten, and that **CTK parents are more involved in school** and more likely to contact them. CTK parents felt a **stronger connection with their child’s teacher**, and saw in their children increased confidence and excitement about school. Teachers also said the CTK experience **had a significant positive impact on their professional practice.**

*First Steps Evaluation
High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009*

“This is one of the most affirming and positive experiences for me as a Kindergarten Teacher to really get to know my incoming students.”

Rock Hill CTK Teacher

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ York County First Steps CTK children averaged over 3 identified risk factors with 40% having never attended any preschool.
- ✓ 97% of CTK Children received all 6 visits.
- ✓ The Fort Mill School District financially sponsored an additional 20 students for the second year.

CTK by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$8347	\$18,988
Federal Funds	\$0	\$7,321
Private Funds	\$21,033	\$17,500
In-Kind Funds	\$6,300	\$6,300
Total	\$35,680	\$50,109
State \$ Leveraged	327%	90%
Children Served	80	90
Cost per Child	\$307	\$311
Number of Visits	480	540
Cost per Visit	\$74	\$93

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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

For infants, toddlers and preschoolers, the quality of care they receive is crucial to their healthy development and eventual readiness for school. Child care providers strive to provide that type of quality care, but often 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 significant 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, ECERS, FCCERS)

Congratulations to the York County First Steps QE participants for 2011-12:

Child Care Providers:	
Open Arms	God's Blessing
Carolina Academy	Glory Cloud
Little Fox CDC	Little Peoples
Small World CDC	Two by Two
Adventures Child Care	Clover Kids Academy
Sugar and Spice	Pam's Playhouse

Thanks to our partners!

- CCR &R**
- Winthrop University**
- York Technical College**

Why QE Works

Universally, child care centers and providers who participated in First Steps Quality Enhancement strategies showed **significant increases in pre/post scores of assessed child care quality.**

*First Steps Evaluation
 High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009*

"Without the First Steps Program, this center would not have the opportunity to reach a new level of excellence in order to provide childcare that will change the community."

Vivian Agurs

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ **The 12 Quality Enhancement Centers served this year serve a total of 660 children with at least half (330) deemed from at risk families.**
- ✓ **The average increase in the Environmental Rating Scale between pre and post assessments this year was 0.77 points.**
- ✓ **Our partnership with the York County Child Care Providers has resulted in tuition discounts for the Teenage Parent Vouchers.**

QE by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$91,571	\$116,781
Federal Funds	\$27,469	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$1,200	\$1,200
Total	\$120,240	\$117,981
State \$ Leveraged	1%	1%
Providers Served	12	12
Cost per Provider	\$10,020	\$9,832
Number of Visits	288	288
Cost per Visit	\$418	\$410

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Getting children ready for school.

Child Care Training

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

Program Description

Efforts to improve the quality of child care must include providing affordable, high quality training 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, but also follow-up with supported practice in the classroom.

York County First Steps' Child Care Training Program is tied to our Child Care Quality Enhancement Strategy. In working with 12 Child Care Providers each year there are ample opportunities to tailor our Training Workshops to meet the specific needs of the child care professionals employed at our QE Centers. In all cases we have three (3) primary objectives that we are seeking to achieve:

1. **Advancement along the CCCC Career Lattice** – Encourage our participants to elevate their credentials and education in the profession of child care services.
2. **Advancement within the ABC Quality System** – Promote the advancement of the Center's ABC Rating through the training that we offer.
3. **Improvement in an Approved Measure of Program Quality** – Through the use of the Environmental Rating Scale and the applicable areas of focus, elevate the quality of care for the children through increased focus training of the child care providers.

Our primary focus for our training workshops is for the QE Centers that are being served with monthly technical assistance. Beyond this primary focus, open slots for enrollment to the workshops are offered to previous QE child care providers in York County, other providers that we have established a working relationship with through other Programs such as Teenage Parent Child Care Vouchers, and then providers in neighboring Counties.

Thank you to our partners!

- Winthrop University
- York Technical College
- CCR&R
- SC-PITC

Why Training Works

Research shows that well trained and educated individuals in the child care workforce are **key to ensuring that children are both safe and in a setting to promote their healthy development.**

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

"York County First Steps provides workshops that enable educators to get together learn and share, which has been an excellent forum for the betterment of early childhood education in SC."

Betty Chason - Small World Academy

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ 346 Child Care Professionals were provided certified hours of training through the staff of YCFS with 57 providers from our QE Centers.
- ✓ Through Partnerships with neighboring Counties, such as Lancaster and Union, YCFS Staff helped provide training to over 200 child care professionals outside of York County.

Training by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$11,386	\$11,994
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$1,200	\$1,200
Total	\$12,586	\$13,194
State \$ Leveraged	11%	10%
Child Care Staff Trained	221	346
Providers Represented	18	25
Number of Training Hours	32.5	38
Cost per Person Trained	\$57	\$38

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in York County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

The latest Kids Count data shows that more than two-thirds of children under 6 in South Carolina (68%) have all available parents in the labor force. **Access to quality child care is essential for these children to experience safe, nurturing, and stimulating interactions while away from their primary caregivers.** Yet, of those families working or going to school who are 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.

This past year, YCFS, transitioned our Child Care Voucher Program to focus entirely on Teenage Parents working to complete their high school education. This target population is in dire need of assistance as the absence of quality child care dramatically impacts two generations of “children”. The young child is in need of a high quality educationally stimulating environment in which to grow. The parent/student is in need of completing their high school requirements to have an opportunity to be an independent adult capable of providing for their child in the future.

The desired outcome is to assist the parent/students in completing their high school education while providing high quality childcare for their child.

The students are identified through the 4 School Districts and are assigned a Parent Educator to assist with balancing the demands of being a parent with the need to finish their school requirements.

Risk Factor Profile:

% in Poverty	100%
% < HS Diploma	100%
% Teenage Mothers	100%

The child care providers that have assisted with this Program have provided tuition discounts to YCFS to assist in this critical program.

Thank you to our partners!

Family Resource Centers (York, Clover, Rock Hill, Fort Mill) – Parent Educators

York County Child Care Providers

Why Access to Quality Care Works

Children develop in an environment of relationships that includes their immediate and extended families, non-family caregivers, neighbors, and community - and poverty can compromise those relationships. **When children receive few opportunities for positive serve-and-return interactions - when the responses from adults are sporadic, inappropriate, or missing entirely - they are not getting the stimulation their brains need to develop in a healthy way.**

The Long Reach of Early Childhood Poverty, National Scientific Council on the Developing Child

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ **During the first year of the refocused Program 60% of the clients either graduated with their class or remained in the Program since they were not seniors.**
- ✓ **Participants met regularly with Parent Educators and attended Parenting Workshops as part of the requirements to receive Child Care Vouchers.**
- ✓ **All parent/students contributed a small amount to the cost of their child’s child care to encourage full participation in the care being provided to their child.**

Scholarships by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$12,924	\$51,837
Federal Funds	\$48,167	\$4544
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$0	\$0
Total	\$61,091	\$56,381
State \$ Leveraged	0%	0%
Children Served	47	26
Cost per Child per Year	\$1300	\$2168
Tuition per Week	\$25	\$47
Child Care Providers Served	28	12

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Getting children ready for school.

Free Medical Clinic



Getting children ready for school.

Access to Health Care is an essential element for the growth of all children and critical to their being fully prepared to learn.

Program Description

Through the partnership with The Early Learning Partnership, free medical services are provided at the four Family Resource Centers located in York County. They are open one day a week at each of the Family Resource Centers and serve all children that do not have access to Medicaid or other health care services. This partnership has been forged over many years and includes the free services of several local pediatricians that have dedicated one day a week to see children that would not have access to care otherwise. The location of the medical clinics within the Family Resource Centers provides an ideal service delivery model for a community by hosting a number of early childhood service providers at one central hub location.

The purpose of providing the medical services is to provide the children with an opportunity to grow up healthy by having the access to needed immunizations, screenings, and prescriptions when they are sick. Untreated illnesses can create lifelong weaknesses that can translate into learning disabilities. Routine visits to trained professionals can catch a potential disability early enough to make a difference.

The Program Objectives are as follows:

1. Address the immediate need of the child.
2. Provide any needed referral to additional services and interventions as needed.
3. Work to steer the family toward finding a suitable medical home within the community if possible.

The Family Resource Centers provide the foundational base for accessing the target population of families without Private Medical Insurance or Medicaid. In many cases language is a barrier and the Centers have access to interpreters as needed from the Medical and Parent Educators located within the Centers. 100% of the families meet TANF and/or SNAP eligibility requirements along with a range of additional risk factors to the child's chances of being ready when they enter school.

Why PROGRAM Works

Access to free medical services is not always available to those without access to Medical Insurance or Medicaid. In York County, there is access four days a week on a first come first served basis for any child to see a doctor for treatment of an illness, immunizations, physicals, or a hearing or vision screening. Leveraging the partnership with the four Family Resource Centers, our community is aware and has routine access to medical care for their children to grow up healthy and fully capable to learn.

Program Results 2011-12

- ✓ 550 Preschool Children received needed medical services.
- ✓ 462 Immunizations required for school were provided to children.
- ✓ 101 Referrals were provided to the families that came for services.
- ✓ 135 Hearing Screenings were provided.

PROGRAM by the Number\$

	2010-11	2011-12
State Funds	\$8,000	\$8,000
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$172,000	\$180,000
Total	\$180,000	\$188,000
State \$ Leveraged	2150%	2250%
Families Served (<6)	425	550
Total Served	1276	1785

Thank you to our partners!

The Early Learning Partnership
 Family Resource Centers – York, Clover, Rock Hill, and Fort Mill

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Getting children ready for school.

Community Leadership in Early Childhood

Continued Success through Partnership and Collaborations

Strong Board Involvement helps advance the Mission of York County First Steps

The York County Partnership Board continues their strong commitment to prepare at risk children and their families for success in school. In an era that sees parents looking to schools to pick up more responsibilities and schools look to parents to do likewise, the involvement of community agencies and organizations is critical to making a sustainable positive change. Our Board is filled with dedicated members passionate about making a difference in the lives of our children and their families.

Key 2011-2012 Highlights for the York County Partnership Board:

- Transition of Child Care Voucher Program to focus our funds on Teenage Parents working to finish High School that includes assistance from Parent Educators to help stike the balance between student and parent. (Recommendation of Adhoc Board Committee)
- Through the recent years of budget reductions and economic hardships, York County First Steps has been able to maintain service levels in all cases and grow services in several programs.

York County First Steps Partnership Board

2011-2012

Name	Position	Board Category
Vivian Agurs	Kids World Daycare	Faith Community
Joyce Argo	Clinton Elementary	Pre K – Primary Elementary
Mary Chamberlain	MacFeat Child Development Winthrop	Early Childhood Education
Alice Davis	Williams and Fudge	Business
Deborah Dukes – Secretary	York Technical College	Family Education, Trng. And Support
Nina Feemster	Bright Beginnings Family Resource Center	Appointee – Clover SD
Arleen Fincher	DHEC	Appointee – DHEC
Tricia Gupton	Hunter Steet Elementary	Pre K – Primary Elementary
Cindy Hunt – Chair	ParentSmart Family Resource Center	Appointee – Rock Hill SD
Twila Koss	Little Fox Child Development Center	Early Childhood Education
Carol Mann – Vice Chair	Retired School Teacher	Appointee – Legislative
Debby Miller	York County Social Services	Appontee – DSS
Linnie Miller	Carolina Community Action	Non-Profit
Shelby Patterson	ParentSmart	Family Education, Trng. And Support
Penny Sanders	York SD Family Resource Center	Appointee – York SD
Windy Tuck	York County Culture and Heritage Museum	Non-Profit
Mary Watson	MacFeat Child Development Winthrop	Pre K – Primary Elementary
Diane Williams	York County Library	Appointee – York County Library

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



Getting children ready for school.

Getting children ready for school.

What is First Steps?

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness was created in 1999 by the South Carolina General Assembly for the purpose of **having every child in South Carolina arrive at kindergarten ready to learn**. Sadly, many South Carolina children possess one or more risk factors that put them at **high risk** (greater than a 1 in 3 chance) for **“early school failure”** – either being retained or scoring below grade level in reading or math – by third grade.

First Steps exists to bring together efforts in early childhood at the state and local level, public and private, to focus and intensify services and assure the most efficient use of all available resources to serve the needs of South Carolina’s young children and their families.

First Steps works to accomplish its mission through a state coordinating office and a network of county partnerships (46), each a private non-profit organization led by a board of early childhood stakeholders. With a modest recurring appropriation of state funding, First Steps leverages cash and in-kind resources at the federal, state and local level to improve services for young children in five strategy areas:

Family Strengthening

A parent is a child’s first and best teacher.

Healthy Start

Children’s development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health.

Quality Child Care

Access to high-quality care is a critical component of a child’s healthy development.

Early Education

Quality preschool opportunities set the stage for success in school.

School Transition

Preparing children and parents for a successful transition into full-day kindergarten.

Each First Steps county partnership determines how to spend its funds based on an annual needs and resources assessment and collaboration with community partners to **fill gaps in local services** for young children and their families. First Steps has proven its impact through strong program and fiscal accountability and independent evaluations every three years - a requirement of its enabling legislation.

All programs that receive First Steps funding - whether they are operated by a First Steps county partnership or a collaborating partner, such as a school district – must adhere to program standards that require programs to be research-based and operated with fidelity; staff who have appropriate qualifications, training, and supervision; services to be comprehensive and coordinated with available community resources; standard assessment instruments that document client outcomes; and programs that **target services to children most at risk** for not being developmentally ready for school.

www.scfirststeps.org

The Spirit of Cooperation and Collaboration runs deep in York County!

New BabyNet Offices

A need to relocate the York County BabyNet Office was identified in the spring of 2012 as the BabyNet Staff and their offices transitioned to First Steps. We worked with our established partners in an attempt to locate suitable space that would also help support the Family Resource Center as a hub of children and family services in York County. The Clover School District stepped in to assist in our need and made a commitment to host the BabyNet Offices in their Family Resource Center. This commitment helped provide benefits on a number of levels, including:

1. The addition of a critical preschool intervention in the western, more rural section of York County with the objective to include the other Family Resource Centers.
2. The ability to integrate the BabyNet Program within other services provided and make referrals to additional interventions.



BabyNet

South Carolina’s Early Intervention System

First Steps is the lead agency for BabyNet, South Carolina’s early intervention system for children under 3. Parents of children 0-2 years old with disabilities or suspected developmental delays should contact their local BabyNet office to schedule an evaluation.

BabyNet in York County: **803-222-5360**

York County First Steps

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Cindy Hunt

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