



Parents as Teachers

“Real Fathers are Dads”  
Fatherhood Initiative

Quality Child Care Trainings



# Annual Report

2014-15

**OUR VISION:**

Every South Carolina child  
will arrive at kindergarten  
ready to succeed.



**First Steps WORKS for the children of Abbeville County.**

### 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 Abbeville County children under 5:

**1,358**

Number of Abbeville County children living in poverty:

**1528**

Babies born each year in Abbeville County to a mother without a high school diploma:

**15.8%**

### Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Fatherhood Initiative

Child Care Training

### Our Results

- ✓ Distributed over 3,223 books to children during FY 14-15.
- ✓ 432 Home Visits were completed with 29 families
- ✓ Over 456 Hours were spent on Home Visits
- ✓ 12 hours of Mock Home Visits for students at Lander University
- ✓ Served over 227 adults with parenting groups

## First Steps Works for the Children, Parents and Taxpayers of South Carolina

Angela S. Pruitt, Executive Director

Our County Partnership has had a great year in 2015. Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps starting sharing office space in March 2011, and this Joint County Partnership has continued into 2015. By sharing administrative and programmatic resources across county lines, this joint venture has created a significant cost saving which can provide more for program services to children and families. We have continued to have great relationships with the Department of Social Services and the Guardian Ad Litem Programs. The *Real Fathers Are Dads* Fatherhood Initiative continues to grow and gain community support with participants, civic organizations, churches, and businesses. We also have a great relationship with The Social Change Initiative to ensure we have additional parenting services for our families. We have provided services to over 400 participants since the inception in 2008. The Fatherhood Initiative and Parents as Teachers Program work jointly to include the entire family. The father has been the missing component for many years with our programs, and we have found the missing component. By using the holistic approach and working with the entire family, we are starting to see change happen. Other agencies and partners in our community are starting to see change and want to be a part of this initiative.

We also continue to partner with Lander University and Erskine College's Education Department to provide Early Childhood Conferences each year. We were able to provide quality child care trainings with approved Certified Trainers to 6 facilities, and 32 staff members serving more than 448 children. Community Partnerships are continuing to expand to provide services to the most at risk children in Abbeville County.

**Board Chair**  
Daniel Crawford

**Executive Director**  
Angela S. Pruitt

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**www.acfirststeps.org**

# What We Do

Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With **measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas**, First Steps is getting results.



## Healthy Start

We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.



## Quality Childcare

Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child's development and success in school.



## Family Strengthening

Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for the children. As a result of First Steps' intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at "low" levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.



## Early Education

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.



## Early Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized



## School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

**Based on the needs of our community, Abbeville County First Steps focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.**

## True Collaboration Makes a Difference!

Abbeville County First Steps in partnership with Greenwood County First Steps has had many success stories in the community. Great partnerships have been formed across county lines to save costs administratively, and to serve more families and children in the community. The Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps Boards have supported the two agencies with sharing office space to saving administrative costs to direct more funding into programs to serve families and children. This successful partnership has had tremendous cost savings for both agencies and became a model to share with other agencies.

Abbeville County First Steps also partners with another extremely successful agency, The Social Change Initiative. The Social Change Initiatives provides additional parenting services to ensure the entire family receives services. To add to this "perfect partnership" The Social Change Initiative also shares office space with Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps! This one location is a hub for these amazing entities: Abbeville County First Steps, Greenwood County First Steps, and The Social Change Initiative. If that is not enough, Lander University's Early Childhood Department conducts classes at this location weekly, and the Lander University Early Childhood Department's professors' provide workshops for all of the Early Childhood Trainings! Lander students observe home visits by a parent educator, parents and children in an office setting as part of their Early Childhood experience.

*Contact us to learn more!*

### Abbeville County First Steps

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# Parents as Teachers



**Parents play a critical 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.

- 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.

Parents are recruited through referrals from the Department of Social Services, Abbeville County School District, Mental Health, local doctors’ offices, The Social Change Initiative, and other community agencies.

Our PAT Program goals:

- ✓ Increase parent knowledge of child development and improve parenting practices
- ✓ Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Prevent child abuse and neglect with the Protective Factors
- ✓ 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), the Parent Knowledge Surveys and The Protective Factors Survey.

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

% in Poverty	<b>94%</b>
% < HS Diploma	<b>48%</b>

### Thank you to our partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville County Department of Social Services
- Lander University’s Education Department
- Greenwood County First Steps
- The Social Change Initiative

## Why PAT Works

“I learned the importance of attending Adult Education classes to obtain my GED, so that I can teach my child the importance of education.” Ms. Blair

## PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	29	
Children Served	34	
Total Home Visits	432	
Hours Spent Serving Families	456	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	2.35	2.66

**This year, our Parents as Teachers program:**

- ✓ Averaged 15 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 7 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices: Baseline scores for Keys to Interactive Parenting Scales increased from 2.35 to 2.66 illustrating a significant change in parenting behaviors and interaction through play.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills: Books are utilized on all home visits, and at parent meetings to encourage and model literacy skills with families. Also, the Adult Child Interactive Reading Inventory is utilized to evaluate the progression of literacy skills with all families in the program.
- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as adult education, employment, food assistance, housing assistance, utility assistance, and library resources.

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# Fatherhood Initiative

## Program Description

The Real Fathers are Dads Fatherhood Initiative is researched and evidenced based. The Real Fathers are Dads Fatherhood Initiative was founded in January 2008 after receiving grant funding from The National Fatherhood Initiative. The program utilizes curricula such as 24/7 Dad, Doctor Dad, and also over 58 workshops with curriculum created to focus on clients' needs such as communication, relationship skills, budget/financial management, making appropriate choices, and parenting. Families are referred by the Department of Social Services, Abbeville County School District, Mental Health, local doctors' offices, The Social Change Initiative, and other community agencies.

Outcomes are measuring utilizing pre and post testing with the Protective Factors Surveys.

- ✓ Promote parenting knowledge and life skills through group and individualized sessions
- ✓ Assist with community resources and employment opportunities through goal planning
- ✓ Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by utilizing the Protective Factors

### Fatherhood Families:

% in Poverty	<b>93%</b>
% Referrals for Abuse and Neglect	<b>79%</b>

## Why Fatherhood Works

"I obtained employed through Sage Automotive Interiors, and can provide for my family." Mr. Ford.

## Fatherhood by the Numbers 2014-15

Adults Served	16
Children Served	18
Hours-Individualized Sessions	53
Hours-Group Sessions	17

## This year, our Fatherhood Initiative

- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as adult education, employment, food assistance, housing assistance, utility assistance, and library resources.
- ✓ Provided over 70 hours of services to families with group and individualized sessions.
- ✓ Provided nutritious meals to families.
- ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of families on budget and financial management.
- ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of Treatment cases referred by the Department of Social Services.

## Thank you to our partners!

Abbeville County School District  
 Abbeville County Department of Social Services  
 Greenwood County First Steps  
 Abbeville Rotary Club  
 The Social Change Initiative  
 Local Churches and Businesses

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# 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 trainings 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.

Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps provide ongoing quality child care trainings for early childhood educators including: Child Care Providers, Teachers, Head Start Staff, and Foster Parents. Two Early Childhood Conferences are offered each year in partnership with Lander University's Education Department.

1. Quality Child Care Trainings
2. Great Partnership to provide Certified Trainings
3. Utilizing Environmental Rating Scales with trainings to ensure quality environments

All training topics are offered by Certified Trainers and hours are offered based on each provider's needs. Surveys are given to all providers to assess needs. Partnerships are established with DSS, ABC, and The State Special Needs Program. Each agency conducts monitoring visits, and data can be obtained through each agency to ensure quality assurances by meeting ABC Standards and levels of quality. The ABC Special Needs Program assists with monitoring children's developmental needs.

## Why Training Works

"The Early Childhood Conference at Lander University was great!" Ms. Simpson

## Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	32
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	32
Number of Training Sessions Offered	49

**This year, our Training program provided:**

- ✓ 32 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 11 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements

## Child Care Training Sponsored by Abbeville First Steps, 2014-15

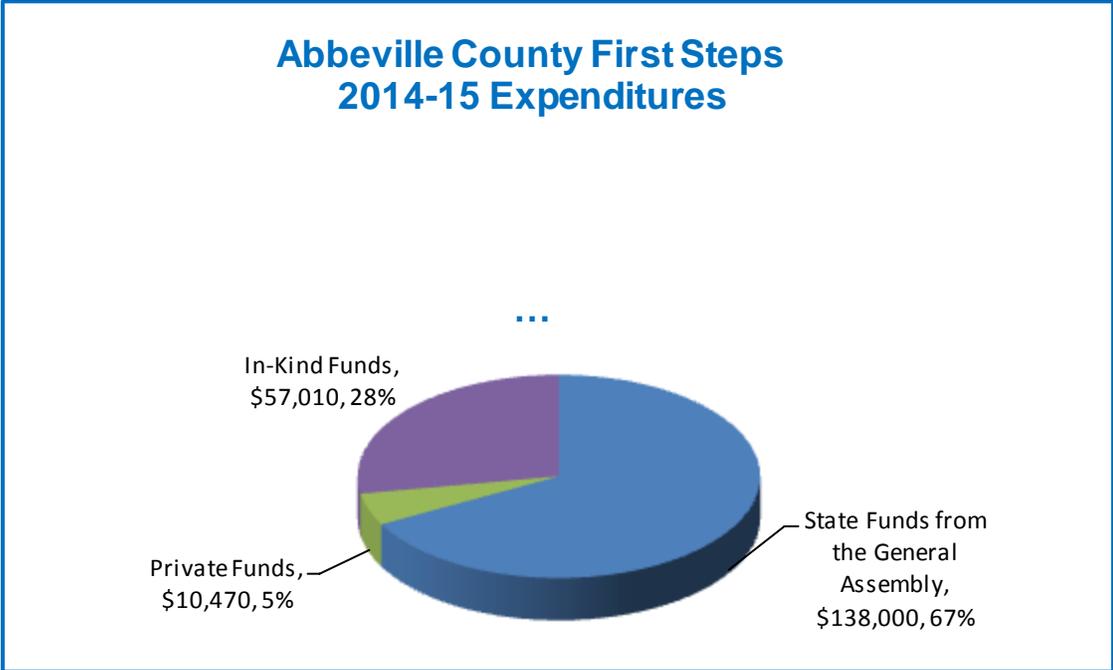
<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Professional Development	3
Safety	4
Special Needs	5
Curriculum	7
Child Guidance	6
Health	5
Program Administration	4
Growth and Development	7
CPR/First Aid	8

## Thank you to our partners!

- Lander University
- Erskine College
- Greenwood County First Steps
- The Social Change Initiative

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$215,984**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15: 49%**

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

### 2014-15 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2013-14 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$59,238	\$0	\$0	\$39,945	\$99,183	46%
Fatherhood Initiative	\$37,372	\$0	\$10,470	\$10,994	\$58,836	27%
Child Care Training	\$6,520	\$0	\$0	\$10,504	\$17,024	8%
Program Support	\$18,605	\$0	\$0	\$4,553	\$23,158	11%
Administrative Support	\$16,265	\$0	\$0	\$1,518	\$17,783	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$138,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,470</b>	<b>\$67,514</b>	<b>\$215,984</b>	

*Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015*

**Since inception, Abbeville County First Steps has leveraged \$1,009,909.08 from sources outside of state government.**

## Abbeville County First Steps Partnership Board 2014-2015

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Board Category</b>
Daniel Crawford, Chair	First Baptist Church/Anderson School District	Parent of a Preschool Child
Henry Green, Vice Chair	The Press and Banner	Legislative Appointed Position
Mary Jane Trainor, Secretary	Lander University	Early Childhood Education
Dr. Charles Costner, Finance Committee Chair	Principal Long Cane Primary	Legislative Appointed Position
Jean Smith, Early Childhood Committee Chair	Abbeville County School District	School District Representative
Mary Stackhouse, Development Committee Chair	Abbeville County Health Department	DHEC Representative
Jane Agan	Christian United Ministries	Non-profit
Gail Johnson	Educator Cherokee Trail Elementary	Early Childhood Education
Cassandra Daniels	Abbeville Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Lee Logan	Stephenson Trusts	Philanthropic Community
Genista Hill-Lomax	Parent	Parent of a Preschool Child
Joe Bryson	Kingdom Life Training Center	Faith Community
Kelley Thrasher	Kids Unlimited	Child Care
Cynthia Thomas	Haigler Street Outreach Center	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Mary Lou Edens	Tracey Jackson Food Program	Non-profit
Connie Normand	United Christian Ministries Free Medical Clinic	Health Care
Janet Vandiver	Mental Health America	Health Care
Lee Matthews	Sage Automotive	Business Community
Rita Gamble	Educator LongCane Primary	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Amy Glover	GLEAMNS Head Start	Head Start Representative
Mary Elizabeth Land	Abbeville County Library	Library Representative
Machelle Bolden	Educator LongCane Primary	Early Childhood Education
Chris Crawford	City Council	Local Government
Abby Evans	Abbeville Civic Center	Local Government
Millie Ricketts	Principal LongCane Primary	Early Childhood Education

## The Goals of First Steps

- (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.

-- Section 59-152-30



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



**BabyNet**

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Abbeville County:

(864) 225-6465

<http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/>

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