



Family Literacy

Nurse-Family Partnership

Child Care Training

Early Education

Countdown to Kindergarten

Annual Report

2014-15



OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Anderson County.

Who We Serve

First Steps serves South Carolina's young children and their families, with the goal of ensuring each is prepared for school success.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Number of Anderson County children under 5:
11,544

Number of Anderson County children living in poverty:
10,704

Babies born each year in Anderson County to a mother less than a high school diploma:
1 in 5

Our Programs

Family Literacy

Nurse-Family Partnership

Child Care Training

Early Education

Countdown to Kindergarten

Our Results

- ✓ # of children served: 223
- ✓ # of adults served: 249
- ✓ 100% of Family Literacy clients had 2 or more school readiness risk factors; avg. 3.14
- ✓ Clients earned 2 GEDs and 10 High School Diplomas
- ✓ Number of Books distributed: 2150

Message from the Executive Director:

Anderson County First Steps Partnership is proud of the following milestones it has achieved during the past sixteen years and its "value-add" to the Anderson community. Our mission could not have been accomplished without the passion, dedication, and support of our community partners:

- ✚ The Anderson County First Steps Partnership has distributed \$9,250,616 to area providers to support parent and family strengthening programs and services, school transition, 4-K classes for at-risk children; and to improve learning environments through the child care quality enhancement and training programs.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership has increased the quality of services available to children and families, using research and data to improve programs and target the most at-risk children and their families.

- ✚ In Anderson County, since 2007-2008, 90 adults have received GEDs and 99 teenage mothers have stayed in school and received their high school diplomas through Family Literacy programs; 764 additional children have had access to four-year-old kindergarten; 233 children and their families have received services through the Countdown to Kindergarten program; and 370 families and 272 babies have received over 6,700 home visits in collaboration with the Anderson County Nurse-Family Partnership. This year, 2,150 books were given to families through the Family Literacy programs, United Way of Anderson County Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and the AnMed Children's Health Clinic Reach Out and Read program.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership collaborates with community partners to leverage funds that will benefit Anderson County families.

- ✚ During the past 16 years, \$4,409,564 has been leveraged to provide additional early education services for the most at-risk children and their families. We have strong partnerships with our local community agencies and service providers including Anderson School Districts One, Two, Three, Four, and Five who have provided over \$100,000 annually in matching funds for Family Literacy services, the United Way of Anderson County, The Duke Endowment and The Children's Trust of South Carolina. The Peoples Bank of Iva provides office space and administrative services.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership, working with community partners, has helped to reduce first grade retention.

- ✚ In Anderson County, first-grade retention has been reduced by 54.5% since 2001-2002. This has resulted in a cost-savings of \$932,790.

Board Chair
Faith Line

Executive Director
Paige Wall

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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 their 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, community-based resources.



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, Anderson County First Steps focuses its investments in Healthy Start, Quality Childcare, Family Strengthening, Early Education, and School Transition.

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 Anderson County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.



Anderson County NFP home visitors provide health and childcare education and guidance to low-income mothers in their homes beginning in early pregnancy and through the child's second birthday. Currently, the youngest client is 14 and the oldest is 39. Full participation takes approximately 2 1/2 years to complete. Four primary risk factors that negatively impact school readiness are: poverty, low maternal education, teen parentage, and low birth weight.

NFP by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	89
Families Served	124
Number of Home Visits	1,722

"She (nurse/home visitor) helped me tremendously. Of course, I had no idea what to do. You know, I'm 19... I have had no experience with this. I need help." - See [http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/first-time-moms/stories-from-moms/kristina-s-story-\(1\)](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/first-time-moms/stories-from-moms/kristina-s-story-(1)).

To Date, our NFP program has:

- ✓ Served 370 families with a total of 272 babies born.
- ✓ Graduated 88 mothers who have completed the entire 2 ½ year program. Of those who graduated from NFP, 76 graduated from high school or completed GED programs; 33 completed vocational training or some college. At the time of graduation, 19 were enrolled in college full or part time; 24 graduates were employed fulltime and 24 were working part time sometimes in two jobs.
- ✓ Ensured that 95% of all children have completed their immunization schedule by the age of 12 months and 100% by 18 months

Thank you to our partners!

The Duke Endowment
 The Children's Trust of South Carolina
 S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Region I
 Stevenson Charitable Trusts

Anderson County First Steps

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Family Literacy – Anderson School District One

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

The Anderson School District One family literacy program:

- (a) increases parent knowledge of child development;
- (b) increases literacy skills in parents; and
- (c) promotes school readiness.

Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among the Anderson School District One family literacy program families:

100% ... live in poverty
 100% ... have low maternal education (less than a high school diploma or GED)
 86% ... are teen mothers



Parents learn the importance of spending quality time with children.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2014-15

Adults Served	7
Children Served	7
Adult Education Hours Offered/week	22
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered/week	35
Parenting Education Hours Offered/month	15
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	2 High School Diplomas; 1 GED

This year, our Family Literacy program met or exceeded outcomes:

- ✓ 100% of our families had 2 or more risk factors
- ✓ 100% children made gains in Ages and Stages assessment
- ✓ 100% parents made gains in one area of Parent Educational Profile assessment
- ✓ 100% of current 12th grade parents graduated (2); 3 clients moved to the next grade level
- ✓ 100% adults made gains on TABE assessment
- ✓ 100% of adults whose goal was to obtain GED reached their goal.

Thank you to our partners!

Anderson School District One
 Anderson County Districts 1 and 2 Adult Ed
 AnMed Health
 Small Wonders Child Care Center

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Family Literacy – Anderson School District Two

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities



Mom and baby study together.

The Anderson School District Two literacy program:

- ✓ Helps parents of young children increase their education levels;
- ✓ Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development through Interactive Literacy activities; and,
- ✓ Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education or high school.

Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need.

Among our family literacy program families:

100%	... live in poverty
89%	... have low maternal education (less than a high school diploma or GED)
78%	... are teen mothers

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2014-15

Adults Served	9
Children Served	9
Adult Education Hours Offered/week	24
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered/week	32.5
Parenting Education Hours Offered/month	10
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	3 High School Diplomas

This year, our Family Literacy program met or exceeded outcomes:

- ✓ 100% of families had 2 or more risk factors
- ✓ 100% of Parents tested made gains in both PEP scales tested
- ✓ 100% of children made gains on Ages and Stages assessment
- ✓ 3 clients received high school diplomas; 3 clients moved to the next grade level
- ✓ Parents initially began program with 1-2 hours/day as weekly goals. Monthly totals increased 100% for all participants as goal levels exceeded the initial goals.

Thank you to our partners!

Anderson School District Two
 Honea Path Middle School
 Belton Honea Path High School
 Anderson County Districts 1 and 2 Adult Ed
 Anderson County Library
 SHARE Head Start

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Family Literacy – Anderson School District Three

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

The Anderson School District Three family literacy program which is located at the Family learning Center at Starr Elementary school:

- ✓ Helps parents of young children increase their education levels
- ✓ Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development through parent education classes and Interactive Literacy sessions
- ✓ Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education or high school

Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among the Anderson District Three family literacy program families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... have low maternal education (less than a high school diploma or GED)
- 78% ... are teen mothers



Mom teaches baby about colors.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2014-15

Adults Served	10
Children Served	9
Adult Education Hours Offered/week	15
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered/week	35
Parenting Education Hours Offered/month	20
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	1 High School Diploma

This year, our Family Literacy program met or exceeded outcomes:

- ✓ Three high school students passed to the next grade level. One high school student received her high school diploma.
- ✓ All GED participants increased scores on the post-TABE test.
- ✓ Families assessed with the PEP (Parent Education Profile) showed gain in at least one Scale area. Most showed gain in more than one area.
- ✓ 100% Children assessed using the ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) indicated normal development.

Thank you to our partners!

- Anderson School District Three
- Anderson County Adult Education
- SHARE Head Start
- Anderson County Library System

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Family Literacy – Anderson School District Four

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

The goals of Anderson School District Four family literacy program which is located at the Family Learning Center are to:

- ✓ increase parent knowledge of child development;
- ✓ empower parents to provide children with a nurturing environment;
- ✓ increase literacy skills in parents;
- ✓ encourage job acquisition or job advancement; and
- ✓ promote school readiness.

Anderson First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among the Anderson School District Four family literacy program families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... have low maternal education (less than a high school diploma or GED)
- 50% ... are teen mothers



Mom helps children with homework.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2014-15

Adults Served	10
Children Served	10
Adult Education Hours Offered/week	12
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered/week	17
Parenting Education Hours Offered/month	20
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	1 GED

This year, our Family Literacy program met or exceeded outcomes:

- ✓ 100% of parents with pre/post on the Parent Education Profile improved in at least one scale;
- ✓ 1 parent earned a GED; 5 parents with pre/post TABE scores made a functioning level gain; 1 parent is a high school student who was promoted to her Senior year; 1 parent earned silver Work Keys Certificate; and,
- ✓ 100% of children with ASQ pre/post scores increased their scores in at least one area; 2 children began receiving services with BabyNet.

Thank you to our partners!

- Anderson School District Four
- Anderson County Adult Education
- Crossways Child Care
- Anderson County Library System
- Clemson University Extension

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Family Literacy – Anderson School District Five

Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

The Anderson School District Five Family Literacy program, which is located at South Fant School of Early Education:

- ✓ Helps teen parents of young children increase their education levels;
- ✓ Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development through parent education classes and Interactive Literacy sessions; and
- ✓ Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend high school.

Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among Anderson School District Five family literacy program families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... have low maternal education (less than a high school diploma or GED)
- 100% ... are teen mothers



Infants and toddlers receive quality early learning experiences through the Family Literacy program.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2014-15

Adults Served	11
Children Served	11
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered/week	41
Parenting Education Hours Offered/month	5
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	4 High School Diplomas

This year, our Family Literacy program met or exceeded outcomes:

- ✓ 4 clients received high school diplomas;
- ✓ 6 clients moved to the next grade level;
- ✓ 100% of children showed developmental progress based on the ASQ pre/post assessments; one child is receiving services through BabyNet; and
- ✓ 100% of parents showed improvement on at least one scale based on PEP pre/post assessments.

Thank you to our partners!

Anderson School District Five
 Anderson County Library System
 Golden Harvest Food Bank
 AnMed Health System

Anderson County First Steps

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Child Care Training

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

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Anderson County First Steps Child Care training is linked to the Countdown to Kindergarten program and the SC Early Learning Standards.

I liked the different craft ideas that can be used in the classroom, the hand-outs, the activities for children websites, and the ideas from different centers.
 Training Evaluation Form



Child care staff learn about age-appropriate classroom activities and environments.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Anderson County First Steps, 2014-15

Topic:	Sessions:
March 23, 2015: Creating a Rich Print Environment	1
April 7, 2015: Emergent Mathematics	1
June 2, 2015: Fun, Fun, and More Fun with Literacy	1

Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	72
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	54
Number of Training Sessions Offered	3

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 54 early childhood staff with high quality training;
- ✓ 9 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements;
- ✓ 17 child care centers and schools with high quality DSS-approved training impacting 1076 children; and
- ✓ 198.8 informal Technical Assistance through five Family Literacy programs.

Thank you to our partners!



United Way of Anderson County
 Dianne Mizzell, Master Teacher
 Anderson County Library

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Early Education

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

Program Description

Anderson School District One provides high quality early education programs serving an additional 40 at-risk 4K students in two half-day classes which are located at Spearman Elementary School. This program adheres to all SC Department of Education guidelines, serves the most at-risk, and follows best practices including the implementation of High Scope, Creative Curriculum, and Early Childhood Education Rating Scale.

Each student must be four-years-old on or before September 1, 2014; and eligible for free- or reduced-price school lunches; and/ or eligible for Medicaid; and/or qualify for services under IDEA Part B as the result of a documented disability or developmental delay.

Desired outcomes of the program:

- Increased number of at-risk children served in the district;
- Increased school readiness by preparing at-risk 4 year-old kindergarten students to enter 5K classes and succeed; and
- Increased understanding by parents of the academic needs of their children.

Early Education by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	40
Providers Served	1

My child learned so much. I loved that my child brought a book home every week.
 4K Parent



Kindergartners have fun learning the alphabet.

This year, our Early Education achievements include:

- ✓ Provided quality early education for 40 children;
- ✓ 100% passed to next grade; and
- ✓ 100% are reading on grade level.

Thank you to our partners!

Anderson County School District One
 Spearman Elementary School

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id teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ 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.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a "field trip" to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

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

Among our CTK families:

100%...live in poverty
 30%... have low maternal education
 (less than a high school diploma or GED)

CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2014

Children Served	48
Families Served	48
Home/School Visits	288



Four-year-old learns his numbers to prepare for kindergarten

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Served 48 families with 155 First Steps client risk factors; family average: 3.23
- ✓ Served 48 children with 34 Countdown to Kindergarten risk factors; child average: .71
- ✓ Connected 75% of the children and their families with their children assigned to their Kindergarten

Thank you to our partners!

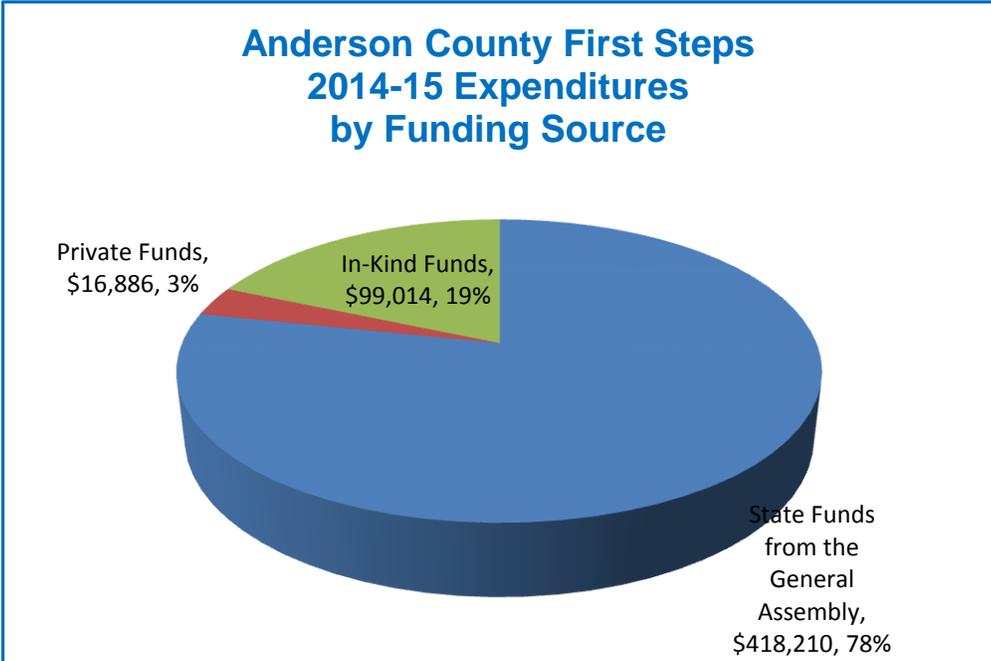


United Way of Anderson County
 Anderson School Districts One, Two, Three,
 Four, and Five
 Kaplan Early Learning Company

Anderson County First Steps

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Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$534,110

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 28%

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

2014-15 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2014-15 Expenditures
Family Literacy	\$260,616	\$0	\$0	\$62,339	\$322,955	60%
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$0	\$0	\$7,552	\$0	\$7,552	1%
Half-Day 4-K	\$59,277	\$0	\$0	\$36,675	\$95,952	18%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$19,138	\$0	\$9,281	\$0	\$28,419	5%
Child Care Training	\$11,775	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,775	2%
Other Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Program Support	\$40,025	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,025	7%
Administrative Support	\$27,379	\$0	\$53	\$0	\$27,432	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$418,210	\$0	\$16,886	\$99,014	\$534,110	

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

Since inception, Anderson County First Steps has leveraged \$4,409,563 from sources outside of state government. That's 55 cents for every state dollar.

Anderson County First Steps Success Stories:

Anderson School District One: B. S. is a 12th grader who gave birth to her child earlier this year. While pregnant she also experienced unstable housing. Despite many obstacles, B.S. has consistently stayed the course and is researching educational opportunities after high school in order to “break the cycle of family poverty” and attend a four year college. Initially reluctant and skeptical to participate in the Family Literacy program at her school, she responded quickly to the developmental information presented to her in a desire to learn about being the best parent she can be to her daughter. She regularly brings parenting questions to her sessions, engages her baby in learning activities, and facilitates involvement from the father of her baby. She is enthusiastic about Family Literacy and growing her child’s at home library.

Anderson School District Two: G.G. has successfully completed the 12th grade. She was very active in the Family Literacy program. G. realizes the importance of child development and interactive literacy skills. A. (Her child) attends daycare daily and has progressed well in all developmental areas. She attends From Gerber to Graduation during the day and is always engaged in what is going on there. The family made gains in the PEP (Parent Education Profile) assessments for the year. G. plans to attend Tri-County Tech in the fall. She has been very successful in achieving her goals.



Anderson School District Three: Student A became pregnant during her junior year of High School and delivered her baby during her senior year. She attended the Family Literacy events regularly during her senior year. This student was raised by grandparents and helped with younger siblings. She became a leader in our group events. As the oldest high school student attending, she encouraged the other students to stay in school and to make good choices in their relationships. The father of her baby also attended the events and participated in discussion. He was very eager to learn and share results of the suggestions he had tried. This couple plans to marry in a few months and Student A plans to continue her education at Tri-County Technical College where she received a scholarship to attend in August 2015.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$418,210
(through South Carolina First Steps)

United Way of Anderson County for
 Countdown to Kindergarten: \$8,200

Stevenson Trust for Nurse-Family
 Partnership: \$5,000

SC First Steps for Nurse-Family Partnership:
 \$2,500

In-Kind Support

Anderson School District One

Anderson School District Two

Anderson School District Three

Anderson School District Four

Anderson School District Five

People’s Bank of Iva

S.C. DHEC, Region I

Kaplan Learning

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

Anderson County First Steps Success Stories, continued:

Anderson School District Four: D.F. is a mom of three children whose primary language is Spanish. She began coming to classes this year in August but has been enrolled several times since her middle child who is now in elementary school was a toddler. During this time as she attended our English classes and worked on Rosetta Stone, she became fluent in English. She has recently joined our GED classroom and translates when needed for the other mothers who speak Spanish. She completed the EFNEP Nutrition class offered through the Clemson Extension campus. This class was taught once a week in the fall during our parenting classes. Although married, her spouse works away from home for months at a time. The Family Literacy Learning Center is a support to her as she raises her children. Although he used to cry for much of the day, he now does not cry when his mother leaves to take her adult education classes. Her youngest child is now enrolled in our infant/toddler room and is doing very well. He likes playing and reading in the classroom. This mother recruited another one of our ESOL students.



Anderson School District Five: One of our teen parents had an exceptional father who stood with his daughter providing for her and the baby. This grandfather brought the baby to South Fant then took his daughter to school every day. Dad had assumed custody of his daughter because he said mother and daughter never bonded and he could not see his child mistreated. This teen had two strikes against her: (1) becoming a young parent; and (2) not having a relationship with her mother. We were able to do home visits. The family attended meetings and there was a change in the family structure by the middle of the year. Grandmother has had a change of heart and has fallen in love with her daughter and granddaughter. Grandmother started bringing the baby to school a lot. She developed a great rapport with the staff and was always a joy to have her enter the building. I know this change helped the teen mom to become focused on her classes. This is a success story because we never know other obstacles that teen parents face. This teen parent overcame the issues with the help of her dad. On May 23, 2015 she became a high school graduate.



Countdown to Kindergarten: I worked with a little boy this summer who attended our K4 program and had some difficulty paying attention and listening. His mother expressed concern that he wasn't very interested in learning and so was behind. His mother was very eager to help him but wasn't sure what the best approach would be. Countdown to Kindergarten provided materials and information to help mom know how to help her son be successful. I gave her some ideas including games for her to play with her son. The mother worked daily with her son over the summer and has continued to do so. This student is reading and thriving in kindergarten!! His mother is very thankful for this program and the progress her son as made! It was my pleasure to participate in Countdown to Kindergarten again.



First Steps Partnership Board

2014-2015

Name	Position	Board Category
Faith Line, Chair	Anderson Co. Library	Library
Jackie Blakley, Vice-Chair	Tri-County Tech	Early Childhood Education
Mari Birchman, Secretary	DHEC - NFP	DHEC
Nann Davis	Anderson School Dist. 5	Family Education/Training
John Dendy	SHARE Head Start	Head Start
Glenn Farrow	DSS	DSS
Cindy Hanks	Little Angels Child Care	Child Care/Early Education
Sheila King	Kid's Stuff Academy	Child Care/Early Education
Faith Line	Anderson Co. Library	Library
Debra Madden	Anderson School Dist. 3	Anderson School Dist. 3
Brenda Kelley	Anderson School Dist. 5	Anderson School Dist. 5
Sanquinita Martin	The Parenting Place	Non-profit
Meredith McClure	Tri-County Tech	Pre-K/primary
Dianne Mizzell	Child Care Master Teacher	Early Childhood Education
Lynette Pannell	Anderson University Early Education	Early Childhood Education
Tanya Richbourg	Anderson School Dist. 1	Anderson School Dist. 1
Allison Strickland	Anderson School Dist. 2	Anderson School Dist. 2
Tammy Vaughn	Anderson School Dist. 3	Anderson School Dist. 3
Charity Walker	Anderson School Dist. 4	Anderson School Dist. 4
Pegie White	BabyNet	BabyNet
Helen Williams	Genestee Baptist	Faith
Paige Wall	Anderson County First Steps	Executive Director
Deborah Sanders	Anderson County First Steps	Program Evaluator/Coordinator



Getting children ready for school.

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 in Anderson County:
864 225-6465

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

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