

BEAUFORT COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



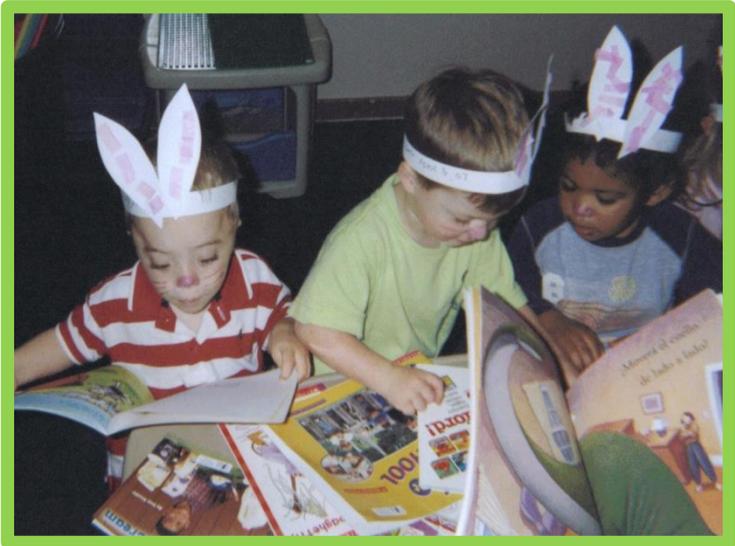
**Parents as Teachers**

**Child Care Quality Enhancement**

**Child Care Training**

# Annual Report

2014-15



**OUR VISION:**

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

**First Steps WORKS for the children of Beaufort 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 Beaufort County children under 5:**

**10,140**

**Number of Beaufort County children living in poverty:**

**8,133**

**Babies born each year in Beaufort County to a mother with less than a high school diploma:**

**19.9%**

### Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Training

### Our Results

- ✓ **Parents as Teachers:** 45 children from 37 families served, KIPS assessment improved; +0.82
- ✓ **Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE):** 473 children, 8 QE facilities, 222 technical assistance (TA) visits, 468 TA hours, Overall ERS Assessments improved +0.84
- ✓ **Child Care Training:** 467 unduplicated childcare professionals trained, 149 training sessions to include those offered at Annual TEAM Lowcountry Conference
- ✓ **Literacy:** 6,757 books given for children's use

### Executive Director Message

Beaufort County First Steps Partnership began the year with renewed focus and dedication to continue its advocacy efforts on behalf of Beaufort's neediest children and families. This included continued plans for enhancing the learning environments of childcare facilities to promote developmentally appropriate practices. Additionally, we continued strengthening parenting skills through our Parents as Teachers program.

In partnership with local child care providers, businesses, various organizations, governmental agencies and individuals, Beaufort County First Steps served 453 children in 7 childcare facilities through the Quality Enhancement Initiative during fiscal year 2015. In an effort to promote literacy 6,757 age-appropriate books were distributed to children and families for home ownership. Also 37 families and 45 children participated in the Parents as Teachers program with each family's overall assessment or progress being above average.

With the support from our community we will continue to provide early intervention services, strengthen families, improve children's health and well-being and increase the quality of early care and education in Beaufort County.

On behalf of our Partnership Board and staff, we thank all of you for sharing your time, resources, and expertise. We applaud all those working to ensure that children in Beaufort County are ready for school success.

In Service for Children,

*Betty Washington*

Executive Director  
 Beaufort County First Steps



We depend on our community to teach us and keep us safe!

**Board Chair**  
 Ashley Hutchison

**Executive Director**  
 Betty Washington

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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, Beaufort County First Steps focuses its investments in....  
Parents as Teachers, Child Care Quality Enhancement, and Child Care Training.**

Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

## Program Description

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

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

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

100% ... live in poverty  
23% ... didn't graduate from high school  
31% ... were teen parents



Courtney Harmon (PAT mother); sharing craft ideas during Family Group Connection meeting.

Special thanks to PAT father, Quiltillion Fields, for helping facilitate Family Group Connection meeting.

*My family and I would love to thank you for all the knowledge and support that you have given us. For me as a mother of two, I never knew that there are people who are so willing to help families in need; even the little things make a big difference.*

*Claudia Mitchell*

## PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	36	
Children Served	45	
Total Home Visits	639	
Hours Spent Serving Families	664	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	<b>KIPS</b> Pre 3.16 Post 3.98 <b>Difference</b> +0.82	<b>ACIRI</b> Pre Adult +1.87 Child +1.29 Post Adult +2.23 Child +1.38 <b>Difference</b> Adult +0.47 Child +0.32
Average gain, Adult Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI) pre-to-post):		

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 17.75 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 4 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices increasing the KIPS average (interaction between parent and child) by +0.82
- ✓ Improved literacy skills \ pre-to-post changes in ACIRI Adult +0.47; Child +0.32, 962 books given to children
- ✓ Made 368 connections for families to services such as...Beaufort Housing Authority, BabyNet, Hope Haven, CAPA, Legal Aid, Disabilities and Special Needs, Project Hope, Family Promise, Head Start, Beaufort County Schools, HELP of Beaufort, Salvation Army, Food Ministries, Love House Ministry (free oil change), Department of Social Services, DHEC, Health Link, Child Passenger Safety Program, Mental Health, Benefit Bank/SC Thrive, Beaufort County Library, Well Care, Employment Agency, Technical College of Lowcountry, University of South Carolina, Blue Choice (Medicaid), Vanessa Riley (Suicide Prevention), Consumer Credit Counseling, Wright Direction Family Services, Donna Scott, (Insurance Professionals), NAMI, Glitter! Teach Her to Shine (Latoya Williams), Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department, Family Connection, SC Highway Patrol, Beaufort Memorial Hospital, Born to Read

## Thank you to our partners!

**Barry Pepper / CrossFit Port Royal Sound** (Adopted families for Christmas)

**ADR Taxi Service** (Free cab rides for PAT families to Parent Group Meetings)

## Beaufort County First Steps

2201 Boundary St. Boundary St., Suite 111  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
Phone: (843) 379-7837  
Email: [bjw1steps@hargray.com](mailto:bjw1steps@hargray.com)

# 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

The quality of care received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may 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 high 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)

## QE by the Numbers, 2014-15

Child Care Providers Served	8
Number of TA Visits Provided	222
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	473

*Congratulations to our QE participants for 2014-15!*

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Provider A; (GHCD), toddler room	From 3.97-6.27
Provider B; (OCLC), 3-yr-old room	From 3.78-4.66
Provider C; (KC), infant room	From 3.57-5.33
Provider D; (BB), infant room	From 3.97-3.41
Provider E; (CC), toddler room	From 4.77-5.03
Provider F; (CEC), 3 yr-old room	From 5.29-5.63
Provider G; (HHWL), toddler room	From 3.67-5.00
Provider H; (LHCEC), infant room	From 5.02-5.47

## This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by +0.84 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
- ✓ Provided 468 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ Provided \$32,000 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Assisted new Quality Enhancement facility to achieve B+ status though ABC Quality Rating
- ✓ Distributed 3,009 books for use with children



## Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Resource and Referral
- SC ABC Child Care Program
- SC Child Care Licensing
- Technical College of Lowcountry

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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.

*The trainings offered through Beaufort County First Steps is always helpful to childcare professionals in our community. You are a blessing; I don't know what I would do without you.*

Melonie Qumbley  
 Owner; Children's Palace

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

Topic:	Sessions:
Blood-Borne Pathogens/Health & Safety	Twenty Sessions
Early Literacy in the Child Care Classroom (Cradling Literacy)	Seven Sessions
Program Administration	Eight Sessions
Curriculum	Fifty-two Sessions
Child Guidance	Twelve Sessions
Child Growth & Development	Eleven Sessions
Nutrition	Fourteen Sessions
Special Needs	Thirteen Sessions
Professional Development	Twelve Sessions

### Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	1,072
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	467
Number of Training Sessions Offered	149



Learning Together is "FUN"

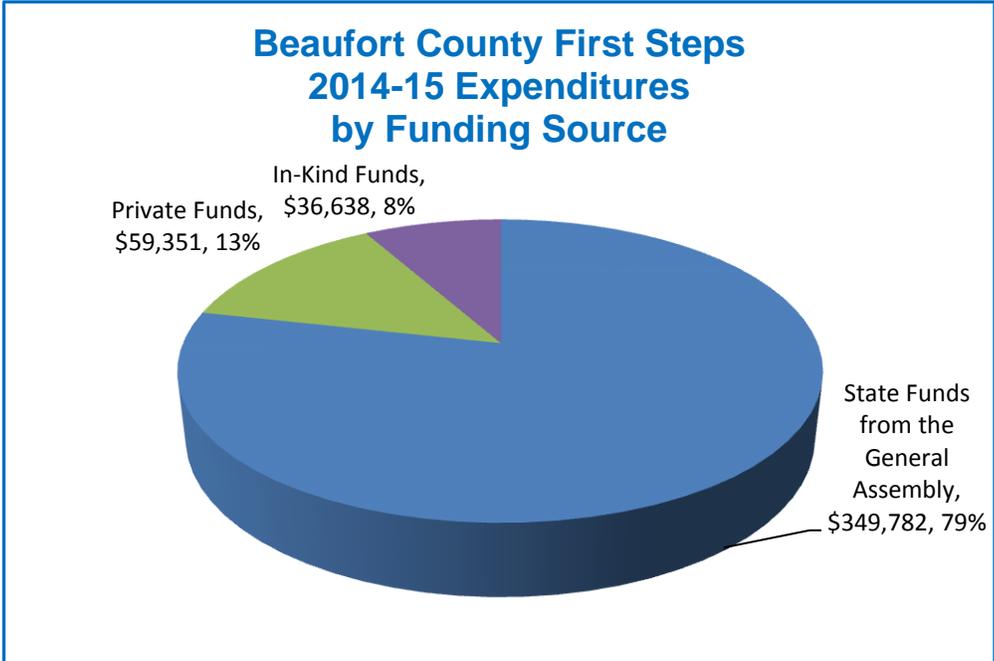
### This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 467 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 34 hours of certified training and 73 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 8 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice
- ✓ 2,497 books given for children's use through training and other community events

### Thank you to our partners!

- Beaufort County School District
- Beaufort Jasper EOC Head Start
- First Steps Partnership; Hampton, Jasper, Allendale, Barnwell
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral
- Technical College of Lowcountry

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**Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$445,771**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15\*: 27%**

\*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
Parents as Teachers	\$114,889	\$0	\$9,398	\$5,249	\$129,536	29%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$108,984	\$0	\$12,792	\$9,683	\$131,459	29%
Child Care Training	\$66,061	\$0	\$31,148	\$13,760	\$110,969	25%
Program Support	\$31,664	\$0	\$3,877	\$5,022	\$40,563	9%
Administrative Support	\$28,184	\$0	\$2,136	\$2,924	\$33,244	7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$349,782</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$59,351</b>	<b>\$36,638</b>	<b>\$445,771</b>	

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

**Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged \$1,856,040 from sources outside of state government. That's 30 cents for every state dollar.**

## Parents as Teachers Helped Shape My Family for Future Success

Beaufort County First Steps Parents as Teachers program is an ideal program to have and be a part of. Their vision is what parents want for their children. Being involved with this program I have learned and am using development-centered parenting techniques. I enjoy doing age-appropriate activities or just simply playing with my children while they're having fun and learning at the same time. The Parents as Teachers program provides support and resources that I may otherwise miss out on. One of my favorite parts of the program is the free books!! My parent educator was very involved and as a result I enjoy teaching my children by doing do-it-yourself/ homemade activities that cost little to nothing with items found around the house. I hope this program continues and grows to become more recognized in the community. Parents, especially 1st time parents, would be ecstatic to be involved with First Steps Parents as Teachers program, I am!!

Thank You! Parents as Teachers,

Shayla Sanders

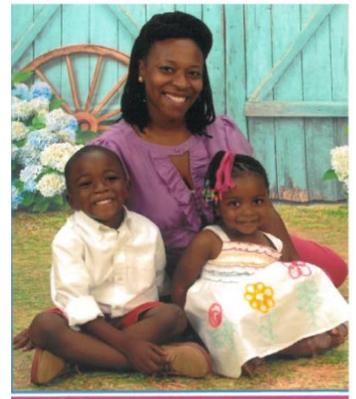


Shayla is the mother of two- Princeton 4; Eliza 2.

Shayla is currently employed as intake Specialist for Palmetto Goodwill. She was previously employed as an Educational (sign language) interpreter with Beaufort County Schools for four years. Shayla received her Master's degree in Counseling from University of TN Knoxville; Bachelor's degree in Communication from Coastal Carolina University.

Shayla also served on Beaufort County First Steps Board as a Parent Representative.

Shayla enjoys working with the community and helping others...Being a mom...traveling...

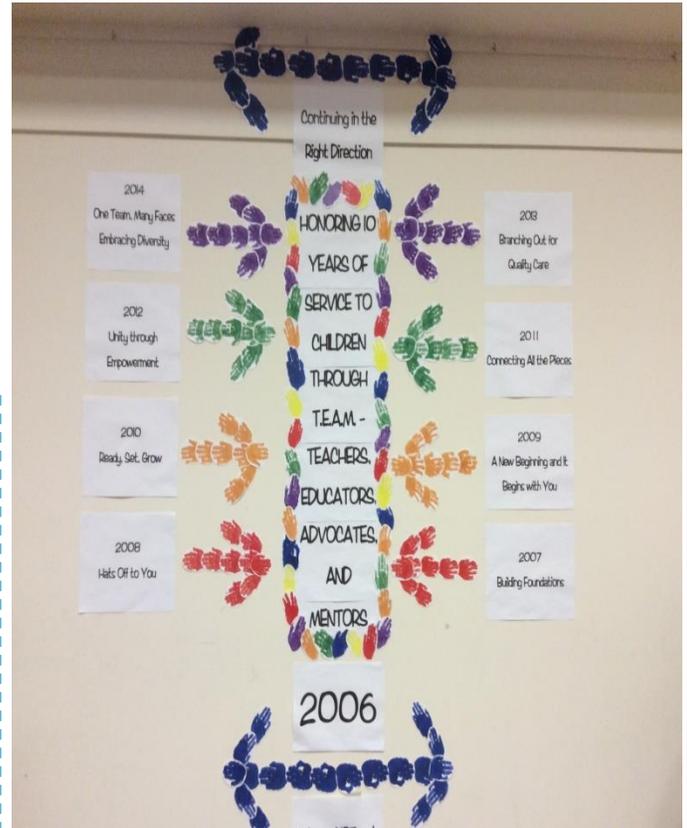


**Teachers Educators Advocates Mentors**

Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference; yearly two-day conference sponsored by region First Steps Partnerships (Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper, Allendale, Barnwell) along with other community agencies; provides training and connects child care professionals with community resources and support.

**Thank you to our Partners**

- \*Beaufort County School District
- \*Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start
- \*Center for Child Care Career Development; T.E.A.C.H.
- \*Cinemark Theatre Bluffton, SC
- \*Community Playthings
- \*First Steps Counties: Allendale, Barnwell, Hampton, Jasper
- \*Kaplan Early Learning Company
- \*Miller Swamp Missionary Baptist Church
- \*Palmetto Electric
- \*Providence Children’s Center
- \*Publix Supermarket
- \*Ridgeland Baptist Christian Child Care Ministry
- \*Sam’s Store #6528 (Hilton Head Island)
- \*Sandbox Interactive Museum, Hilton Head, SC
- \*SC Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- \*SC DSS ABC Child Care Program
- \*SC Inclusion Collaborative
- \*South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SCECA)
- \*Technical College of Lowcountry
- \*Traci Lynn Fashion Jewelry



Designed by children and staff of Ridgeland Baptist Child Care

**This year, T.E.A.M. Conference Planning Committee:**

- ✓ Hosted two-day conference
- ✓ Served 256 Participants from 6 counties; 72 participants attended both days
- ✓ Provided 289 books for classroom use
- ✓ Provided 111 workshop sessions
- ✓ Satisfied 10 hours of required DSS training

## Leadership and Commitment

The mission of the Beaufort County First Steps Partnership board as a unit is to provide leadership and support in implementing programs that assist children from birth through age 5 to become successful lifelong learners.

The Beaufort County First Steps Board provides a roadmap for creating a coordinated, high-quality system of early childhood services that supports our youngest children and their families and makes meaningful progress in narrowing the achievement gap for school success.

Our Board of Directors understands the importance of children having access to the best quality care by parents and other caregivers alike. Research shows that the benefits of healthy brain development through quality education and care in the earliest years of a child's life last well into adulthood. In other words, taking care of our children today is the best way to ensure their success in the future.

Thank you to our board for their continued commitment in providing quality education programs in Beaufort County.

## Beaufort County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
<b>Ashley Hutchison, Chair</b>	Early Child Coordinator/Beaufort County School	County School Representative
<b>Julia Burnes, Vice-Chair</b>	Education Manager/Beaufort Jasper Head Start	Head Start Representative
<b>Nan Krueger, Secretary</b>	Nurse/Beaufort Pediatrics	Health Care Provider
<b>Leroy Gillard, Treasurer</b>	Executive Director/Beaufort Jasper EOC	Transportation Provider
<b>Tonya Allen-Jenkins</b>	Site Director/The Children Center Inc.	Child Care, ECD/ED Provider
<b>Ronald Manyin</b>	Arts in Schools Coordinator, Friends of Music	Non-Profit Organization
<b>Annette Drake-Smith</b>	County Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
<b>York Glover</b>	Retired/Clemson Extension	Faith Community
<b>Marilyn C. Jenkins</b>	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
<b>Tiffany Lothery</b>	Student	Parent of Preschool Child
<b>Arriel Burns Young</b>	Educator /Beaufort County School	Parent of Preschool Child
<b>Kathleen M. McTeer</b>	Librarian/Beaufort County Library	County Library Representative
<b>Ernestine Morris</b>	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
<b>Madie Orage-Green</b>	Program Coordinator I	DHEC Representative
<b>Dr. Jean Murray</b>	Retired Educator	Family Ed., Training & Support
<b>Lauren Furman-Boggs</b>	Center Director/Life House Child Enrichment	Pre-K Primary Education
<b>Wanda Grant</b>	Educator, Beaufort County School	Business Community

## 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 provider 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 Beaufort County:  
LOCAL SPOE PHONE # - (843) 379-7882

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