

DILLON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

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 Dillon 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 Dillon County children under 5:
2,200

Number of Dillon County children living in poverty:
944 or 42.9%

Babies born each year in Dillon County to a mother less than a high school diploma:
1 in 4

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training

Our Results

- ✓ 21 Families Served
- ✓ 12 Group Meetings
- ✓ 719 Home Visits
- ✓ 132 Educational Toys Distributed
- ✓ 1,336 Books Distributed
- ✓ 23.5 Child Care Training Hours Provided
- ✓ 60 Child Care Staff Trained
- ✓ 22 Child Cares Represented
- ✓ Nearly 478 children impacted through Child Care Trainings

First Steps Works for Children and Families

By: *Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr., Executive Director*

Dillon County First Steps (DCFS) is proud to have the opportunity to serve our youngest citizens, 0-5 years of age, to motivate, inspire, and stimulate developmental skills. DCFS will continue to build a solid foundation of knowledge in order to ensure Dillon County's children will be ready for school.

Dillon County Programs

In 2014-2015, DCFS continues the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home Visitor Program that serves families with prenatal through kindergarten children. PAT Group Connections are held on a monthly basis. Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) project continues to help develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade. The IAL project promotes early literacy for young children, motivates older children to read, and increases student achievements by using school libraries, and distributing free books to children and their families.

Child Care Training and Professional Development hours continue to be offered to Dillon County Child Care Providers and surrounding counties to allow child care providers to fulfill their yearly DSS credit training hours. Dillon County Child Care Providers attending at least one training session are awarded supplies to be utilized in their child cares.

Dillon County Leverages Resources

Dillon School District Four continues to support and provide office space, meeting space, utilities, and copying service for DCFS. A grant from the Dillon County United Way supports DCFS programs. A grant from SC Child Care Career & Development supports child care trainings.

Since 2008, DCFS continues its annual community fundraiser to encourage community support and awareness.

DCFS will continue to serve high quality programs and encourage community support to ensure that Dillon County's children have the best possible education. By DCFS and the community working together as a team we will build a dependable, reliable, and educated workforce.



Ja'hauna McRae blowing bubbles.



Preston Jackson getting "Tummy Time."

Board Chair

Dr. Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson

Executive Director

Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.

406 West Cleveland Street
 Dillon, SC 29536

(843)774-0061

Email:

dcfsteps@bellsouth.net

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, Dillon County First Steps focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.

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

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

100% ... live in poverty
 50% ... didn't graduate from high school
 25% ... were teen parents



Christasia Quick using fine motor skills and hand coordination with books.

Both of my girls were in the program. We all have learned so much. I really enjoy the books. My girls love to read!

Tanya Floyd
 Parent, Parents As Teachers

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	21	
Children Served	37	
Total Home Visits	719	
Hours Spent Serving Families	734.79	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.99	4.12

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.81 monthly home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with *Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS)* Assessment with an average 3% increase
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with *Adult/Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI)* assessment with an average increases 15%Adult/24%Child
- ✓ 1,196 of books distributed, 132 educational toys distributed.
- ✓ 12 Group Meetings
- ✓ Made 8 connections for families to services such as Early Education Programs and Housing Resources

Thank you to our partners!

City of Dillon Wellness Center

Dillon County United Way

Dillon School District Four

Parents As Teachers Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)

Dillon County First Steps

406 West Cleveland Street, Dillon, SC 29536

Phone: (843)774-0061

Email dcfstps@bellsouth.net

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.

Dillon County Day Cares are fortunate to have a First Steps staff who are concerned about the needs of Day Care Staff and Children.

We always take away from the classes' information that we can use.

**Glenda Prescott
 Prescott's Day Care**

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

Topic:	Sessions:
Cradling Literacy	Sessions: Intro, 1, 2, 3, 7, & 11
Recognizing Child Abuse	One Session
Sign & Symptoms of Heat Stroke In Children	One Session
Nutri-Sneaking In Veggies	One Session
Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session
Let's Keep It Moving	One Session
The Six Stages of Emotional Development, In Children	One Session
Relationship-Based & Reflective Organization	Two Sessions



Child Care Staff making a "Memory Quilt" (Cradling Literacy)



Cradling Literacy Child Care Training Session

Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	298
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	60
Number of Training Sessions Offered	14

This year, our Training program provided:

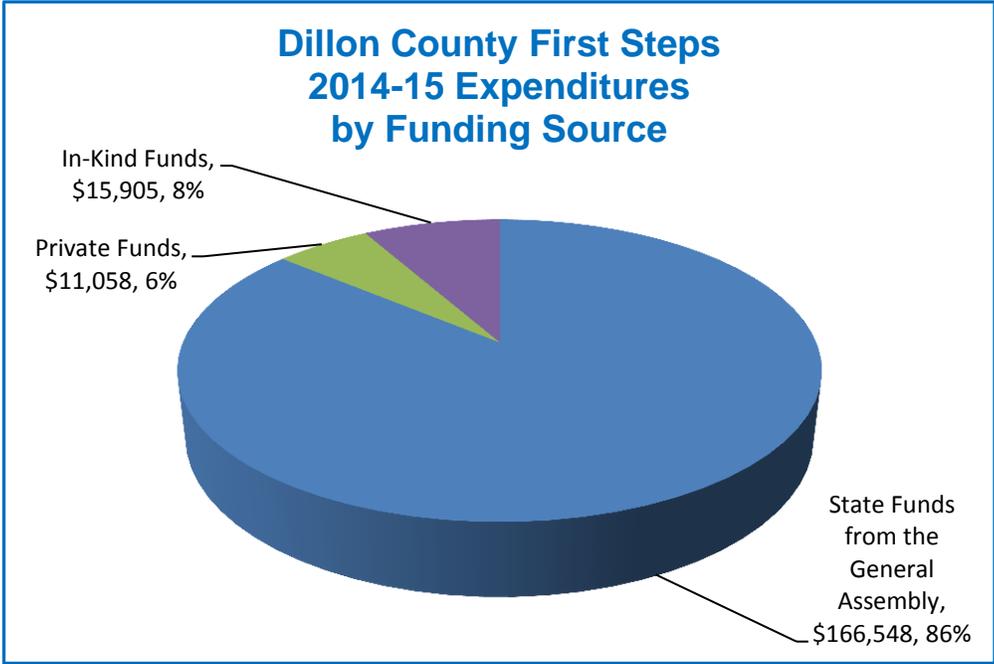
- ✓ 60 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 22.5 hours of certified training and 1 hour of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 22 Childcares represented; serving an estimated 301 children 0-5 year olds and 177 children 6+ year olds.
- ✓ 140 Books placed in Child Cares

Thank you to our partners!

- Brandi's Banquet Hall
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Dillon School District Four
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development

Dillon County First Steps
 406 West Cleveland Street, Dillon, SC 29536
 Phone: (843)774-0061
 Email: dcfsteps@bellsouth.net

Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$193,511

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 16%

**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	\$55,129	\$0	\$3,483	\$3,350	\$61,962	32%
Child Care Training	\$28,008	\$0	\$3,749	\$6,540	\$38,296	20%
Program Support	\$62,925	\$0	\$2,461	\$3,958	\$69,344	36%
Administrative Support	\$20,487	\$0	\$1,365	\$2,058	\$23,909	12%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$166,548	\$0	\$11,058	\$15,905	\$193,511	

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

Since inception, Dillon County First Steps has leveraged \$882,027 from sources outside of state government. That's 21 cents for every state dollar.



Community Impact

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$169,896
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Bartell Funeral Home, LLC

City of Dillon

Criterion Club, Inc.

Dillon County Board of Education

Dillon County Council

Dillon County DSS

Dillon County NAACP

Dillon Heating and Cooling

Dillon School District Four

Dillon-Marion County Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Door of Hope Christian Church

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Elliott Realty

First Citizens Bank

GOFLO Service

Hazy Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Herald Office Supply

Latta Drug Company, Inc.

Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

McLeod Health – Dillon

New Bethel Apostolic Church

Outreach Family Fellowship

Parents As Teachers Parents

Patricia C. Schafer Foundation

Prince Hall Affiliation (PHA) Group

Schafer Distributing Company

Select Health of SC, Inc.

Wix Filters

Brenda Arnette

Funding Support

Lendra Bruce Bailey

Laverne & Rebekah Baker

Daniel W. Blue, Jr.

Nina Bradley

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Coward

Myron & Cindy Davis

Akeesha Dunson

Tiffany Ervin

Valerie Graves

Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson

Felicia Hayes

Martha Heyward

Ressie Jones

Mary Kinney

Nancy Leach

Rachelle Lighty

The Honorable James E. Lockemy

Alena Loftus

Dr. Kenneth Manning & Drusilla Leach

Dr. Kenneth Manning & Helen Wiggins

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne McRae

James Moore

Hazel R. Moultrie

Doretha Page

Cynthia Pernel

Gabriel Salmon, Sr.

Kenneth & Annie Smith

Rev. Frankie D. Thomas

Taft Watson

The Honorable Senator Kent Williams

Elaine B. Wright

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

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

Success Stories

I have been with this program over six years and I must say it's been the best thing a family could get into. Starting with my oldest son who is now six years old in 5K that has known all he needed to know before entering school. Now I have a two year old that we are working with. The staff helps me through the days being patient with your child. Now I'm expecting my 3rd child and will be sticking with this program for her to get the knowledge as my others. The books are the best having something to read to your child before bed and through out the day instead of T.V. or electronics all the time. I must say thanks for all the help with this program.

–Kenyatta Greene
PAT Parent

My success story is my daughter and granddaughter was in the program since they were 2 years old, now they are 5 years old and in 4K and they know a lot more stuff than some of the kids in their class now. I think this is a wonderful program for kids. I love it now my 10 month old daughter and my 3 month old grandson is in the program and they are really learning stuff in the program.

Thank you so much to all the staff.

–Felicia Ware
PAT Parent

Zoie started walking at 9 months. She is a very fast learner and is a determined strong little girl. The books and activities that are given from the program are very helpful and she loves for me to read to her.

–Anitra McLellan
PAT Parent

This program has given me the opportunity to have extra help with teaching my boys. Both of my boys love to read the books that Mrs. Shantel gives us. With the encouragement of Mrs. Shantel I have now gone back to school and I have my own apartment. I am thankful for the support.

–Shomaria Townsend
PAT Parent

This program has really helped me and my grandchild. I keep my grandson while his mom works. He has learned a lot.

–Mary Francis
PAT Parent



Kenyatta Greene and Jayceon McLellan at a Group Connection participating in a Parent-Child Activity!



Supporting DCFS community fundraiser. L to R: Shantel McRae, PAT Parent Educator and parents Shannon Dunson, Ashley Pate, Akeesha Dunson, and Mindy Lott.

Community Impact



Parents As Teachers (PAT)

Success Stories

Braxton has improved a lot with his head and neck skills and he's crawling now.

-Shanequa Pinkney
PAT Parent

My kids have learned so much from the program. My 3 year old was potty trained and is preparing to enter Head Start. My one year old started walking and learning hand and eye movement and is building her vocabulary.

-Tarika Colvin
PAT Parent

I have been in the program since my son was one and he is now 5. I have my two girls in the program. This program has made it easier and helpful for me to make sure that my kids are ready for school. They have learned colors, letters, and how to share and play with other kids. I am so glad for this program. This is my last year, both of my girls are going to school. Thank you First Steps

-Kierra Manning
PAT Parent

Everything about the program I have really enjoyed. Every since my 3 year old was a newborn baby, the program has been a success to my kids. My 3 year old has learned a lot from the program. Then off to school she went with a lot of knowledge from Mrs. Shantel. My 2 year old has learned but it's a lot more she needs to know. I'd rather see more school days and hours of learning.

-Tiearra Campbell
PAT Parent



2014 - 2015 Parents As Teachers Year-End Celebration



Tyrek Bethea, father and son Braxton Bethea learning to use gross motor skills.



Ja'hauna McRae, Da'Anah McRae, and Jalaina McRae making homemade bubbles.



*Donation of volunteer.
Ky'Lasia McDaniel learning to write the letter "K"!*

Child Care Training

Success Stories

Dillon County First Steps are careful to make sure that we are offered training that not only helps us meet our requirements, but training that help day care staff improve the care offered to children.

-Glenda Prescott
Prescott's Day Care

Teaching the children how to write their alphabets by showing them and by them practicing. It was a success.

-Eva Owen
Mother's Love Day Care

I love Dillon County First Steps Child Care Trainings because...

- I do not have to travel far.
- The teachers are well trained.
- The hours that we have are very good.

-Brenda Swinney
Little Miss "B"

I love First Steps training. I've learned in the training this year that you have to make plans for outside play for the children and I don't have to leave Dillon for training.

-Sarah Hayes
Sarah's Day Care



Child Care trainer Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson leading Child Care Staff in making a Cradling Literacy "Memory Quilt".



Child Care Staff participating in a training session.



Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson, Certified Child Care Trainer and DCFS Board Chair



Suzanne McGougan, CCR&R Certified Child Care Trainer



Mamie Bostic, Certified Child Care Trainer

First Steps Partnership Board

Board/Community Collaboration

Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board members partner with Dillon School District Four to provide office space, meeting space, copying service and utilities for day to day operations. First Step is actively involved with the Dillon County Collaborative Council (DCCC) monthly meetings. DCCC engages many government agencies such as DSS, DHEC, DJJ, Tri-County Mental Health, Chamber of Commerce and many other agencies. McLeod Medical Center Dillon hosts monthly Teen Pregnancy Prevention meetings which First Steps is actively involved in the planning process of reducing teen pregnancy in Dillon County. DCFS partnered with Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) to encourage healthy babies to first time mothers. DCFS partnered with Child Care Resource and Referral to offer certified Child Care Trainings to child care providers.

Board Highlights

During 2014-15, Dillon County First Steps Board Members volunteered 97.75 hours to board meetings and devoted 76.25 hours to committee meetings.

Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Board Category
Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson, Chair	Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Educator
Gabriel Salmon, Sr., Vice Chair	Faith Community
Beverly McDuffie, Secretary	Family Education, Training and Support Provider
Felicia Hayes, Assistant Secretary	Dillon County Library
NayNarium S. Alls	Family Education, Training and Support Provider
Nina Bradley	Non-Profit Organization that Provides Services to Families and Children
Monique Covington	Head Start
Cindy Gillespie Davis	Non-Profit Organization that Provides Services to Families and Children
Kenyata Greene	Parents of Pre-School Children
Martha Heyward	Latta School District Three
Ressie Jones	DSS
Mary Kinney	Legislative Appointee
Nancy Leach	Parents of Pre-School Children
Rachelle Lighty	Dillon School District Four
Johnnie Luehrs	Legislative Appointee
Gwen McClellan	Faith Community
Teresa McDuffie	Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Educator
Tamela McGill	Childcare or Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Jacqueline McNeil	Faith Community
Jeanette Regina McRae	Childcare or Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Wayne C. McRae	Business Community
Doretha S. Page	Legislative Appointee
Cynthia Pernel	Healthcare Provider
Reginald Scott	DHEC

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

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Dillon County:
(843)669-8689

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

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