

KERSHAW COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality  
Enhancement

Early Identification and  
Referral



# Annual Report

2014-15



## OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Kershaw County.

# Annual Report

## 2014-15

### 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.

Number of Kershaw County children under 5:

**3739**

Number of Kershaw County children living in poverty:

**3767**

Babies born each year Kershaw County to a mother less than a high school diploma:

**15.3%**

### Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Early Identification & Referral

### Our Results

- ✓ 478 Books Distributed;
- ✓ 18 Families Served in Parents as Teachers;
- ✓ 186 children served in 6 child care programs;
- ✓ 187 BEE Program participants
- ✓ 100% of the participating child care programs are enrolled in the ABC Voucher Program

### Answering the Call

**Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director**

Helping children develop a greater sense of self, a respect for others and a lifelong love of learning are the guiding principles of our work with pre-schoolers. Throughout its 15 years, Kershaw County First Steps has responded to the changing needs of Kershaw County's most vulnerable children by working towards developing and implementing effective strategies and programs that prepare them to achieve academic excellence, emotional health well-being, and the ability to become productive members of society.

Through the funded programs, we have worked to ensure that young children, birth through five years have support to learn social and cognitive skills to achieve and maintain a high level of success.

### Lasting Change

Since the inception of our Kershaw County First Steps, our commitment to the youngest of our children remains unwavering and our resolve to prepare them to become successful in life by giving them a strong foundation on which to stand remains firm. In looking toward the future, we will continue to support parents as they assume an active role in the educational wellbeing of their children, provide teachers and educators with the necessary tools to impart knowledge and receive information and professional development to better address the issues of both child and family; and nurture each child with the time, attention, resources, and dedication that will prepare them for success--in school, in a career, and in life.



#### Board Chair

Charlene Hayward

#### Executive Director

Kimberley Jordan

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Camden, SC 29021

(803) 432-7756

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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, Kershaw County First focuses its investments in....  
 FAMILY STRENGTHENING, EARLY INTERVENTION, AND QUALITY CHILDCARE.**

# Early Identification and Referral

Identifying and referring children with possible developmental delays can help assure school readiness.

## Program Description

First Steps' Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development and coordinates public awareness for BabyNet services, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children

### EI&R services include:

1. **Screenings** (developmental, vision, hearing) for children ages birth to 5 years with suspected delays in development
2. **Referrals**, based up the screening results, to appropriate community resources. This could include the local BabyNet System Point of Entry Office, the local school district, and/or support services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and programs in libraries and other community resources.
3. **Parent information** including strategies to monitor growth and development.

### Our EI&R program:

- ✓ Provides early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Promotes services and activities that promote child development
- ✓ Increases children's school readiness and school success

**Kershaw County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our EI&R families:**

25.8% ... live in poverty  
15.3% ... didn't graduate high school  
30.6% ... were teen parents

*Screening my child is the best thing, I could have done! She is getting the help she needs.*

Ms. Frye



## EI&R by the Numbers 2014-15

Children Served	15
Materials Distributed	492
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	7

## This year, our Early Identification and Referral program:

- ✓ Screened 15 number of children for hearing
- ✓ Screened 15 number of children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred 7 number of families to community resources after screening indicated need

**Thank you to our partners!**

United Way of Kershaw County

## Kershaw County First Steps

P.O. Box 669 Camden, SC 29021

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[www.kershawfirststeps.org](http://www.kershawfirststeps.org)



**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

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

100% ... live in poverty  
5% ... didn't graduate from high school  
2% ... were teen parents



*"My son just graduated from KCFS program, and I know my child is ready for school because his issues were found early and we worked with Parents as Teachers and BabyNet!"*

E. Norwood

## PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	18	
Children Served	21	
Total Home Visits	199	
Hours Spent Serving Families	206.33	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.39	3.5

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 16.67 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 6 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Made 26 connections for families to services such as Adult Education, Library Resources, Mental Health, and Medical Services

## Thank you to our partners!

Sandhill Medical Clinic  
Kershaw County Library

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# Child Care Quality Enhancement

**In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.**

## Program Description

The quality of care they 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	6
Number of TA Visits Provided	106
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	186

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

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Bethesda Christian School	From 4.89 to 5.1

## This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Provided 114.5 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ Provided \$3000 in materials grants to participating child care providers

## *Thank you to our partners!*

Kershaw County Library

United Way of Kershaw County

### Kershaw County First Steps

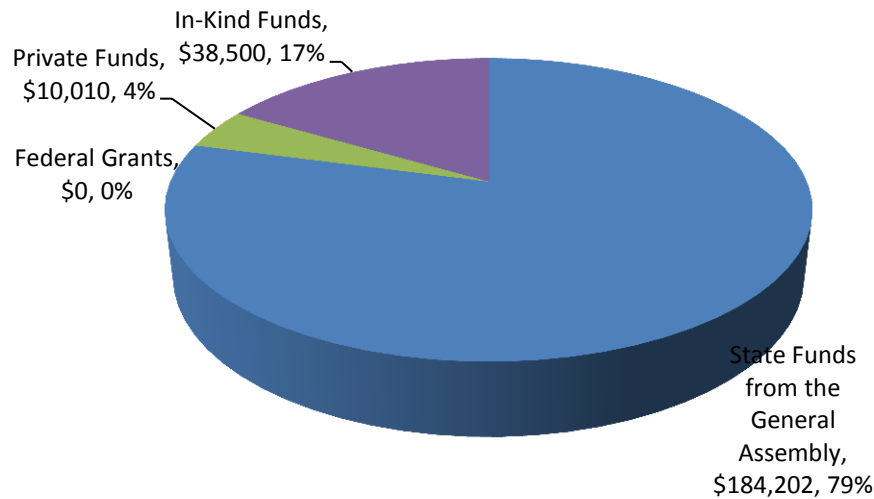
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## Kershaw County First Steps 2014-15 Expenditures by Funding Source



**Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$232,712**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15\*: 26%**

\*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	\$43,673	\$0	\$955	\$0	\$44,628	19%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$42,934	\$0	\$8,931	\$0	\$51,864	22%
Early Identification & Referrals	\$36,298	\$0	\$124	\$38,500	\$74,922	32%
Program Support	\$40,169	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,169	17%
Administrative Support	\$21,129	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,129	9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$184,202</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,010</b>	<b>\$38,500</b>	<b>\$232,712</b>	

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

Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged \$1,438,689 from sources outside of state government. That's 44.85 cents for every state dollar.

# Community Impact

## Making a Difference!

### Parents As Teachers

Nina is a single mother of a five year old and a three year old. With the assistance of Kershaw County First Steps, Nina was able to set financial goals and moved into her first home during the Spring of FY15.

Ms. Lee is the grandmother of a 3 year old. Ms. Lee struggles with reading and works with the Parent Educator, who visits weekly and provides her with techniques that Ms. Lee can use with her grandson to encourage reading.

Patrice has participated in the Parents as Teachers program for 3 years, with the assistance of the parent educator, Patrice developed a home schedule that allows her to return to work and to still home school her 3 children.



*Tammie Smith, Parent Educator offers hands on activities at the parent group meetings held once a month.*

## Thank you to our partners!

### Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$184,201.65  
(through South Carolina First Steps)

SC Center for Child Care Career Development:  
\$2000

United Way of Kershaw County : \$3800

Local Child Care Programs: \$4209.90

### In-Kind Support

Lil Angels Daycare

Bethesda Christian School

Lugoff Early Learning Center

Harvest Hands Daycare

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

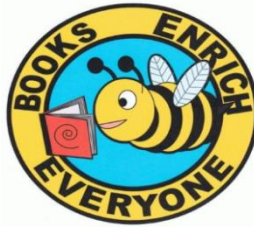


# First Steps Partnership Board

## BEE (Books Enrich Everyone) Program

### Early Literacy Program

The BEE Program is a collaborative effort of Kershaw County First Steps Board of Directors and the United Way of Kershaw County. This project seeks to address a gap in the continuum of early literacy services by reaching out to families with children two to four years old with early literacy needs. Kershaw County First Steps host monthly literacy camps at local child care centers, where volunteer literacy coaches read and distribute books with literacy tip sheets to children and caregivers; and encourage implementation of literacy techniques. 187 children received monthly books and a pre/post early literacy screening during 2014-2015.



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

Name	Position	Board Category
Charlene Hayward, Chair	Family Specialist, Bishopville Head Start	Head Start
Leslie Williams, Vice Chair	Director, Bethesda Christian School	Child Care
Jeanne W. Hanna	Director, Kershaw County Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Cynthia Bolin	Teacher, Kershaw County School District	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Jennifer Kelley	Outreach Coordinator, Kershaw County Library	Library Representative
Veronica Lewis	Program Manager, KC Board of Disabilities and Special Needs	Nonprofit of Families and Children
Brandy James	CPA, SCANA	Business
Marion Kelly	Owner, FATZ	Business
Margaret Lawhorn	United Way of KC	House Appointee
Meghan Wright	Special Services	Senate Appointee
Shelia Williams	CPA, Williams Plumbing Company, LLC	Business
Pam Whitehead	Early Childhood Coordinator, Kershaw County School District	School District Representative

# 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 Kershaw County:  
803-667-1128

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

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