

McCORMICK COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Nurse Family Partnership

Child Care Scholarships

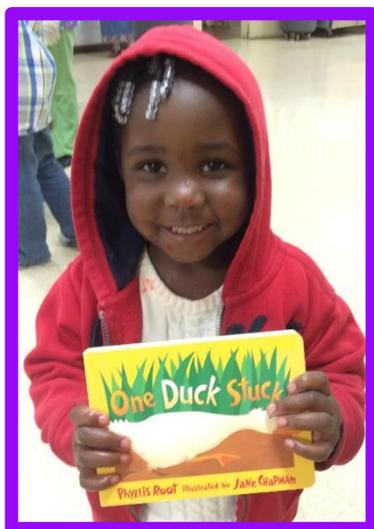
Library Literacy

Other Family Literacy—Reach Out and Read

Early Education for Children Under 4

Annual Report

2014-15



OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of McCormick 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.

Number of McCormick County children under 5:
340

Mccormick County children living in poverty:
466 -- 38%

Babies born each year in McCormick County to a teenage mother:
28

Children living in Single-parent families:
61%

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Nurse Family Partnership

Child Care Scholarships

Library Based Literacy

Reach Out and Read

Early Education for Children Under 4

Our Results

- ✓ 240 children served
- ✓ 132 Families Served
- ✓ 2414 Books Given
- ✓ 731 Home Visits Made

Focus on Early Literacy in McCormick County

Ruth Detrick, Executive Director

1000 Books before Kindergarten

We have a strong focus on early Literacy in our programs and in our community. We know that the single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school. One program that is helping us prepare our children for school success is "1000 Books before Kindergarten". Partnering with McCormick School District, Head Start and the Public Library our children are getting hundreds of books read to them in the classroom, the child care center, the library and at home.

Focus on Active Literacy

Again this year, to provide another focus on literacy, we had a Roll & Read event. Parents and children, walking, on bikes and in strollers participated in a 1 mile walk/ride with 3 reading stops along the way. Children were exposed to new books, new words, and had fun as they increased their vocabulary. In addition, this past summer we held a First Steps Summer Camp for toddlers ages 1 to 3. The children enjoyed stories, activities and songs. Children socialized with each other during "Music in Motion" and "Let's Get Physical" activities. Every day included reading aloud and each child received a book, each day, to take home.

Community Support

We convened a group of Early Childhood Agencies/Organizations and individuals interested in the well-being and success of McCormick's preschool children. We discussed the need to improve literacy and to mobilize the community to provide solutions and services for McCormick's youngest children. Participants at the meeting generated wonderful ideas, many of which are being implemented this coming year.



One of the happy, healthy children in our child care center.

Board Chair
 Pamela Turman

Executive Director
 Ruth Detrick

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 McCormick, SC 29835

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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, McCormick County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, Early Education and Quality Child Care.

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 McCormick County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Carolina Health Centers.

McCormick First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our NFP families:

100% are living in Poverty

33% do not have high school diploma

100% have 2 or more risk factors



NFP by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	12
Number of Home Visits	155

- One of our client's baby is in physical therapy. The mother was just hired to work at the site where her child receives therapy. The child is doing very well—he can jump, climb and, now through PT, is learning how to kick.
- We have connected our families with the services they need—mental health counselling, child speech therapy, birth control, dental services, lactation assistance, VITA tax preparation, car seat training, charitable services etc.

This year, in our NFP program

- ✓ All children received Ages & Stages Developmental Screenings
- ✓ All mothers delivered healthy babies
- ✓ Graduated 5 families

Thank you to our partners!

Carolina Health Centers

Even Start Child Care Center

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Library Based Literacy

Children of poor families hear up to 30 million fewer words than middle class children before entering kindergarten, limiting pre-reading skills and early proficiency.

Program Description

To improve our children’s literacy skills, we have a representative from the Public Library come twice each month to read stories and do activities. At each session each child receives a book to take home and keep. To further increase pre-reading skills, twice each month a music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes. In addition, art projects and special events are provided as part of this program.

Target Population

Approximately 80 children from the First Steps child care center and the Head Start classrooms are served in this program. All children have at least one board-approved risk factor

Service Delivery

The director from our Public Library reads stories and does activities with children twice each month. A volunteer music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes twice each month. Art projects are provided by the local arts council and by volunteers from the Luther Church. Special music and literacy events are also provided.

Staffing and Qualifications

The library director has many years of experience and does a wonderful job. The music volunteer is a former elementary music teacher and knows exactly how to work with pre-school children. Our other volunteers are either former elementary teachers or have an expertise in certain types of art or music.

Assessment

The teachers and child care providers evaluate each class of children on listening skills, with the hope that the skills improve throughout the year. Teachers are surveyed to determine improvement in pre-literacy skills, based on their observation.



Paul Brown, McCormick’s Library Director comes twice each month to read to our children.

Library Literacy by the Numbers 2014-15

Children Served	85
# of Stories	147
# of Songs	133
# of Activities	171
# of books given	1109

Results:

- ✓ Listening improved from 2.8 for the 1st half of the year to 4.5 the second half of the year (on a scale of 1 – 5)
- ✓ Pre Reading Skills increased by 90%
- ✓ 100% of teachers rated this program as Very Valuable,
- ✓ 100% of teachers said that the librarian did Very Well at engaging children’s interest and introducing new words
- ✓ 100% of teachers agreed that this program was a benefit to their children

Thank you to our partners!

McCormick Public Library	Betty Youngs
McCormick Arts Council	Friends of the Library
Lutheran Church by the Lake	First Book

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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:

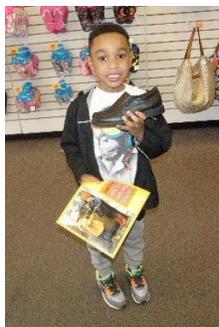
1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

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

96.3% ... live in poverty

22.2% ... didn't graduate from high school

33.3% ... low birth weight



Every child received free shoes at Payless Shoe Event. This was one of our most popular family activity nights.

Comments from Parents from the Satisfaction Survey:

"My baby loves his teacher and he's always excited about what she will bring for him to do."

"The information and handouts help me to help my child to grow and learn."

"This program helps my child develop the skills she needs to start school. It also helps me, so that I can be able to help her."

"My child gets one-on-one help from a caring and trained person."

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	30	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	573	
Hours Spent Serving Families	598	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS .57 increase	ACIRI Adult .49 Child .73 increase

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.3 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 12 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices including families reading books together once or more a day, families with more books in the home and families who own library cards
- ✓ Improved literacy skills through participation in the Innovative Approach to Literacy grant. Areas improved included story recall, understanding directions, picture vocabulary, and oral comprehension.
- ✓ Made 111 connections for families to services such as scholarships, interventions and referrals

Thank you to our partners!

McCormick School District
 U. S. Department of Education

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Reach Out and Read

The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.

Program Description

- We provide 75% of the funds to serve 90 children in McCormick’s Reach Out and Read Program.
- At every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and offer age-appropriate tips.
- Parents, who may have difficulty reading, will be encouraged to invent their own stories to go with picture books and to spend time naming objects with their children.
- At each well-child visit, providers will give every child, between the ages of six months and five years, a new, developmentally appropriate children’s book to keep.



Fidelity:

Doctors and nurses at McCormick Family Practice have been trained in the Reach Out and Read model. The Reach Out and Read South Carolina Center monitors our program to ensure that the model is being implemented with fidelity.

Reading aloud to children is their best hope of being prepared for kindergarten.

Reach Out and Read by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	90
Books Given to Children 0-5	90

This year, our Reach Out and Read Program:

- ✓ 80% of parents state that they read to their children every week
- ✓ 100% of survey respondents showed strong interest in and willingness to try new literacy activities with their child (i.e. Letting the child turn the pages, talk about the pictures, visit the library, ask the child to tell you what is happening in the pictures, help the child to identify shapes, colors, numbers, letters, or things in the picture.)
- ✓ Model fidelity is high in McCormick’s practice. Reach Out and Read staff are working with new clinic staff to ensure training is complete and model compliance remains a priority.

Thank you to our partners!

- Reach Out and Read—Carolinas
- McCormick Family Practice

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in McCormick County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no - affordable care options.

McCormick First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 22% ... were referred and treated by BabyNet
- 33% ... were teen parents
- 33% ... exposed to caregiver's depression

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

We integrated our scholarship program with families in our Parents as Teachers program and our Nurse Family Partnership program.

This program helped me graduate with my high school diploma by offering me a full-time scholarship for my child to attend day care.
Tamia Quarles



Children receiving scholarship receive the socialization and early learning benefits provided by a quality child care center.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	10
Providers Served	1

- This year, our Scholarship program:**
- ✓ Provided 10 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
 - ✓ Identified and addressed 12 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
 - ✓ Made 44 connections for families to services such as early education and literacy interventions and many referrals to needed services
 - ✓ Supported 1 small business in McCormick County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
 - ✓ Provided 1.5 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as how to choose quality child care

Thank you to our partners!

- McCormick County School District
- Even Start Child Care Center
- Department of Social Services
- BabyNet

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Early Education for Children Under 4

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

Program Description

This program provides quality child care for infants and toddlers. We focus on the most at-risk children, especially those children with high school, teenage mothers.

We use certified child care providers, who continually increase their knowledge of early childhood development through training each year.

We maintain high ABC Enhanced and ITERS scores and use Creative Curriculum for infants and toddlers to help improve children’s vocabularies.

Measurements

To measure the quality of the classrooms, we use the official ABC report from DSS. In addition we use an independent evaluation—The Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale.

To measure increases in children’s vocabularies, we use the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

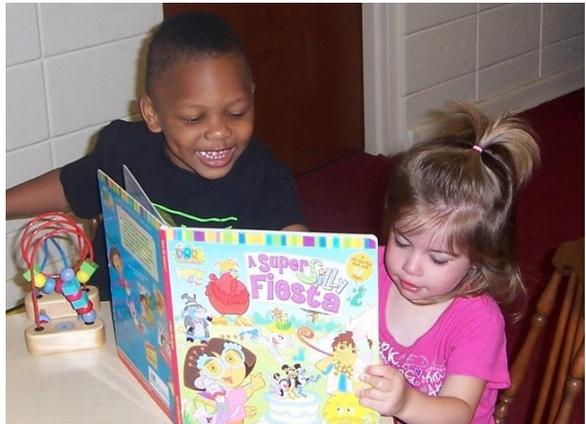
To ensure that children with developmental delays receive necessary services, we use Ages and Stages and teacher and parent reports to determine developmental delays or concerns.

Comments from Family Satisfaction Survey:

“This program provided me help with getting my child into speech therapy.”

“I appreciate the ability to bring my children to a happy place they enjoy being at. Everyone is friendly and supportive.”

“I like the special attention and care that is given to my child on a daily basis.”



Quality Child Care provides parents with peace of mind to work or go to school and provides children with early learning experiences, to prepare them to succeed when they start school.

Early Education by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	33
Providers Served	1

This year, our Early Education program:

- ✓ Made it possible for 33 children to attend quality preschool
- ✓ 100% of children with developmental delays are receiving services
- ✓ Center received a DSS ABC Quality rating of 96%
- ✓ Center received an ITERS score of 5.86

Thank you to our partners!

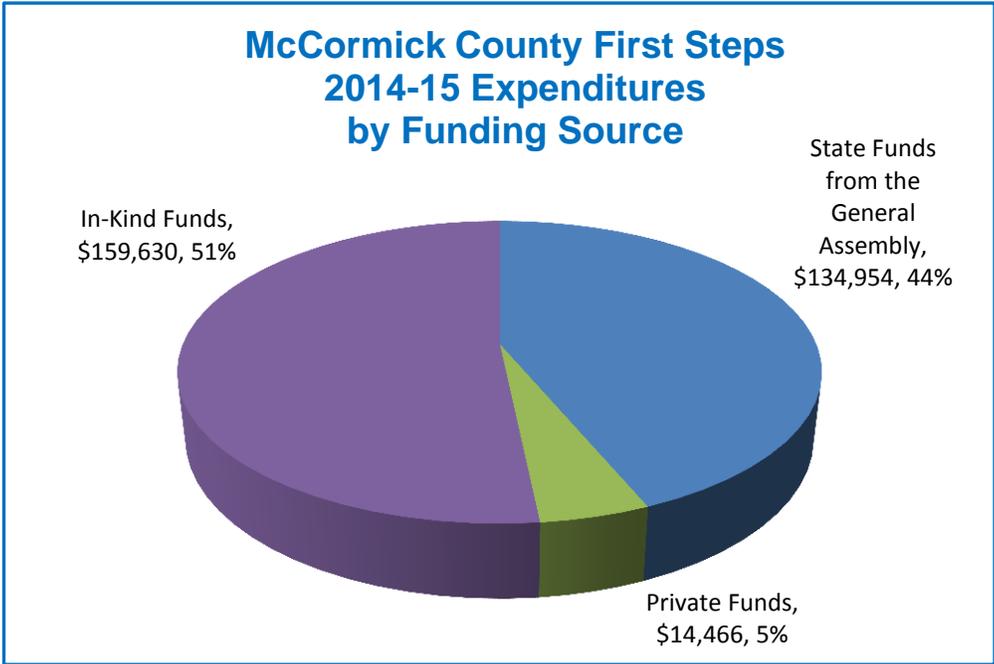
McCormick County School District

Women of the Lutheran Church by the Lake

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Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$309,050

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 129%

*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	\$25,357	\$0	\$2,044	\$42,396	\$69,797	23%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$18,559	\$0	\$9,193	\$6,398	\$34,150	11%
Child Care Scholarships	\$10,570	\$0	\$0	\$225	\$10,795	3%
Library Literacy	\$7,318	\$0	\$2,057	\$3,360	\$12,735	4%
Other Literacy--Reach Out & Read	\$2,636	\$0	\$0	\$225	\$2,861	1%
Early Ed. for Children Under 4	\$54,681	\$0	\$146	\$104,335	\$159,162	52%
Program Support	\$8,918	\$0	\$532	\$2,020	\$11,470	4%
Administrative Support	\$6,915	\$0	\$495	\$670	\$8,080	3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$134,954	\$0	\$14,467	\$159,629	\$309,050	

Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged \$4,547,297 from sources outside of state government. That's 82 cents for every state dollar.

Community Impact

McCormick County's Focus on Pre-school Literacy

Volunteers Help Provide Early Literacy Training

Our Library Literacy program is staffed entirely by community volunteers. We provide stories, music and art with no expense to our partnership, because our wonderful volunteers give so generously of their time and their talents. We have had special music events, where our children get to broaden their knowledge and experience different instruments.



Each child got to experience playing the bass and guitar, after a music event with bass and guitar music, songs and dance.

First Steps Summer Camp

Toddlers from the entire county were invited to participate in our First Steps Summer Camp for toddlers. We offered a free summer camp to toddlers one to three years of age. We provided parents a way to give children the socialization many of them do not experience. The children enjoyed activities, stories and songs around our theme of "Fun In The Sun." Every day included reading aloud and each child received a book each day. We were especially glad that displaced and foster children from McCormick Children's Home were able to attend.



Toddlers hearing a story at First Steps Summer Camp and participating in "Let's Get Physical" with outdoor play.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$138,000 (through South Carolina First Steps)
- PAT/IAL Grant \$4,312
- NFP CAB Grant \$2,500
- Good Shepherd Catholic Church Men's Club \$1,000
- Lutheran Men in Mission Golf Tournament \$1,000
- PATSCH Research Project \$875
- Women of United Methodist Church \$667
- Lutheran Church by the Lake \$539
- Palmetto Project \$330
- Sen. Floyd Nicholson \$250

In-Kind Support

- McCormick County School District
- Carolina Health Centers
- First Book
- Payless Shoe Source

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

Literacy and Community Involvement

Parents as Teachers Roll & Read

We held a special event—Roll & Read, which attracted 60 participants and three celebrity readers. This one mile walk/stroller ride included three reading stations along the way. Children heard special stories then came back to the First Steps office for dinner and free books.



SC Senator Shane Massey, one of our celebrity readers at our Roll & Read event.

Involving the Community in Family Activity Night

By partnering with a low-income apartment complex we were able to take one of our Family Activity Nights out into the community. A parent in the complex helped spearhead the event and was able to increase participation by many low-income residence. We met at the apartment complex. Our program focused on safety and everyone enjoyed decorating delicious cookies.

1000 Books before Kindergarten

Through our Literacy Program children in the Head Start Classrooms and in the Even Start Child Care Center participated in the effort to read 1000 book before kindergarten. In this one school year, we had 3 children reach the 1000 book level. Three Head Start classrooms had every child reach the 300 book level and the class celebrated with an ice cream party. Thirty-three children reached the 500 book level and, in addition to a small prize for every 100 books, they also received a certificate for a free book at our local Friends of the Library bookstore.

McCormick’s First Steps Children participate in Payless Shoe Event



A child with his brand new shoes at the Payless Shoe Store in Augusta.

Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids is an annual giving program from Payless Shoe Source. They provided 43 children in our McCormick First Steps programs with new shoes. Our families planned the event and carpoled to Payless in Augusta, Ga.

Families’ comments included:

- “I barely make ends meet, and I really appreciate the help.”
- “As a single parent with three children, every little bit will help me out a lot.”
- “We need new shoes for church and really appreciate it.”
- “By receiving shoes, our family will use funds that were to be used for shoes to purchase other important necessities.”



First Steps Partnership Board

Strong Collaborations help make a Strong Partnership

McCormick School District

McCormick County School District is a wonderful partner for McCormick County First Steps. They recognize the importance of early childhood education and the effect it has on later school success. They support both our parenting program and child care center. Neither of these programs would be possible without their support. In addition, they provide the rent and utilities for the First Steps office in McCormick.

Lutheran Church by the Lake

In addition to financial help, a group of wonderful women at the Lutheran Church have provided stories, art projects, music and field trips for the children we serve in the child care center and in the literacy program.

McCormick County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Pamela Turman, Chair	Lead Teacher and Supervisor of PAT and Child Care Center	School District Representative
Louella Crosby, Vice Chair	Retired Educator, McCormick School District	Family Education, Training & Support
Teia Avery	Sykes, representative and full-time student	Parent of a pre-school child
Paul Brown	Director, McCormick Public Library	Library Appointee
Nadine Freeman	Coordinator, John de la Howe School	Healthcare Provider
Paulette Freeman	Retired, John de la Howe School	Legislative Appointee
Wendy Gary	Employee, DHEC	DHEC Appointee
Deborah Gunter	Child Care Provider, Greenwood Early Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Daisy Johnson	Retired Director, McCormick Head Start	Early Childhood Education
Christine Lee	Director, McCormick Adult Literacy	Faith Community
Shirley Middleton	Child Care Provider, Even Start Child Care Center	Child Care Provider
Sue Mitchell	Retired Educator	Early Childhood Education
Nakisha Moton	Unemployed	Parent of pre-school child
Tracy Powell	Director, McCormick Head Start	Head Start Appointee
Robbie Seigler	Director, McCormick Department of Social Services	DSS Appointee
Mary Thompson	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Sandy Townsend	Member of Friends of the Library	Other Non-Profit
Bill West	Agent, State Farm Insurance	Business Community

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 McCormick County:
(864) 225-6465

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

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