

NEWBERRY COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Library-Based Program

Countdown to Kindergarten

**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 NEWBERRY 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 Newberry County children under 5:
2,221

Number of Newberry County children living in poverty:
2,317

Babies born each year in Newberry County to a mother less than a high school diploma:
26.5% in 2013

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Library-Based Program

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Training

Our Results

- ✓ CTK: 26 families served; 100% received 6 visits; all children placed in Home Visitor's class
- ✓ Library: 608 children in 19 programs received 4,990 books
- ✓ Child Care: 1 center at "A+" Level, 130 adults trained
- ✓ Parents as Teachers: 22 families & 30 children served; 370 home visits

Reflections

Patricia H. Caldwell, Executive Director

Newberry County First Steps continues to make a significant impact on the lives of children and their families in the county. Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation, and guidance. However, low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development.

Turning to the Community

Newberry County First Steps in 2014-15 leveraged 42.1% from our sources outside of state government. We are serious about involving our community partners in the education of today's children, our future leaders.

The outcomes reported in the 2014-15 strategies show evidence of improvement in all strategies: nationally recognized program, Parents as Teachers, Library-based Program (children's literacy), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK)—where numbers have increased and children are more ready to learn—and Child Care Quality Enhancement/Training. All centers have quality programs and one center has an "A+" rating. Training numbers continue to increase. We are excited to partner with other county partnerships to maximize our resources. We are proud to add Early Head Start as one of our programs to support families.

Moving Forward

The Partnership will continue to work with our community: volunteers, School District, Head Start, retired teachers, child care providers, city and county officials, as we focus on making sure that all children are healthy and ready to experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement that sustain learning.

Patricia H. Caldwell



First Steps collaborates with the Library to read to children in their preschool classrooms and provide books for them to take home and share with their families.

Board Chair

Elizabeth Bozard

Executive Director

Patricia H. Caldwell

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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, Newberry County First focuses its investments in FAMILY STRENGTHENING, EARLY EDUCATION, SCHOOL TRANSITION, AND QUALITY CHILD CARE.

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

Newberry 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



Parents, children, and teachers work together in their classroom.

"With my Family Literacy and PAT friends, I have learned just because you are a single parent does not mean you have to raise your child all by yourself. There are people who want to help you do good and be a good parent."

Kerra

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	22	
Children Served	30	
Total Home Visits	370	
Hours Spent Serving Families	406.96	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS/ACIRI .61	KIPS/ACIRI .14

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.08 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 8 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Exposed as many as 4 generations to spending quality time together through family sessions/screenings
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing 895 books
- ✓ Made 18 connections for families to services such as Family Literacy, Food Bank, Housing Authority, and BabyNet

Thank you to our partners!

School District of Newberry County

DSS Newberry Hospital Special Services

SC Teen Pregnancy Prevention Head Start

Newberry County First Steps

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Library-Based Program

Children's reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

The Newberry County First Steps Library-Based Program is designed to provide literacy activities for 3-4-year-olds enrolled in a certified preschool program. These programs include child care centers, private preschools, faith-based preschools, and public schools. We are especially targeting children who have been identified as at-risk.

One main goal is to instill in children a love of reading and of books. Another goal is to place in the homes of these children quality children's literature to encourage reading and together time for the children and adults in the home.

Each class receives visits twice a month by the Outreach Librarian. Each child receives eight (8) books to take home to add to his or her personal library. Children are taught the proper care and handling of books. Through the reading sessions every two weeks, teachers are trained in storytelling techniques to use in their own reading times. Books are also given to the classroom to build up their classroom library.



"My child really enjoys the Outreach Librarian coming each month. She comes home telling us all about the book she received. Then she wants us to read it over and over. She can't seem to get enough." A Parent

The Library-Based Program by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	608
Books Given to Children 3-5 years	4,990

This year, our Library-Based program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month for 8 months to 608 children enrolled in public and private preschools in the county; taught children how to care and handle books
- ✓ Trained 68 teachers in storytelling techniques to use in their own reading times
- ✓ Received \$1,000 from the Friends of the Newberry County Library



Thank you to our partners!

Newberry County Library Faith-Based Preschools
School District of Newberry County Head Start
Scholastic and Ingram Book Services
First Books National Book Bank Newberry Academy
Local Child Care Centers and Public Preschools

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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	4
Number of TA Visits Provided	106
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	169

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2014-15!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Kids Unlimited, 2-yr-old room	From 4.13 to 4.5
Nae Nae's, infant/toddler room	From 3.58 to 4.1
Newberry CDC, 1-yr-old room	From 4.54 to 6.0
Triangle Child Care, infant/toddler room	From 4.36 to 3.7

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality in most areas in the 4 classrooms working with First Steps on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 144.75 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ Provided \$4,057 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ One child care center went from Level "A" to "A+"!!

Thank you to our partners!

Child Care Centers in Newberry County

Newberry County Library System

ABC Child Care

DSS

DHEC

USC/CCR&R

Aiken County First Steps

Newberry 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.

"Great affordable training right here in Newberry that meets DSS requirements!"

Susan A. Bouknight, Director, "Miss" Susan's Child Care Center

Child Care Training Sponsored by Newberry First Steps, 2014-15

Topic:

Program Administration
Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Sessions:

Four Sessions

Three Hours

Bloodborne Pathogens

One Session

Early Literacy in the Child Care Classroom (Cradling Literacy)

Five Sessions



Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	729
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	130
Number of Training Sessions Offered	15

Training of caregivers and directors is the heart of quality child development programs. We see the results in the faces of our children.

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 130 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 26 hours of certified training and 1 hour of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 106 TA visits with training participants from 4 centers to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

Center for Child Care Career Development

NTUNE Trainer & Consultant USC/CCR&R DHEC

ABC Child Care USC/Children's Law Center

Piedmont Technical College Newberry College

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Bringing parents and 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.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2014

Children Served	26
Families Served	26
Home/School Visits	156

**CTK program data is for June-August 2014, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.*



"I truly have a wonderful class this year and I know that it can be attributed to the CTK program and establishing a relationship with these families."

Alison Bowers, Teacher

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children; 100% children placed in Home Visitor's classroom.
- ✓ Increased public awareness of the importance of school readiness and ways for parents & communities to impact children's early school success
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education as measured by student attendance, parent/teacher conference attendance and volunteering.

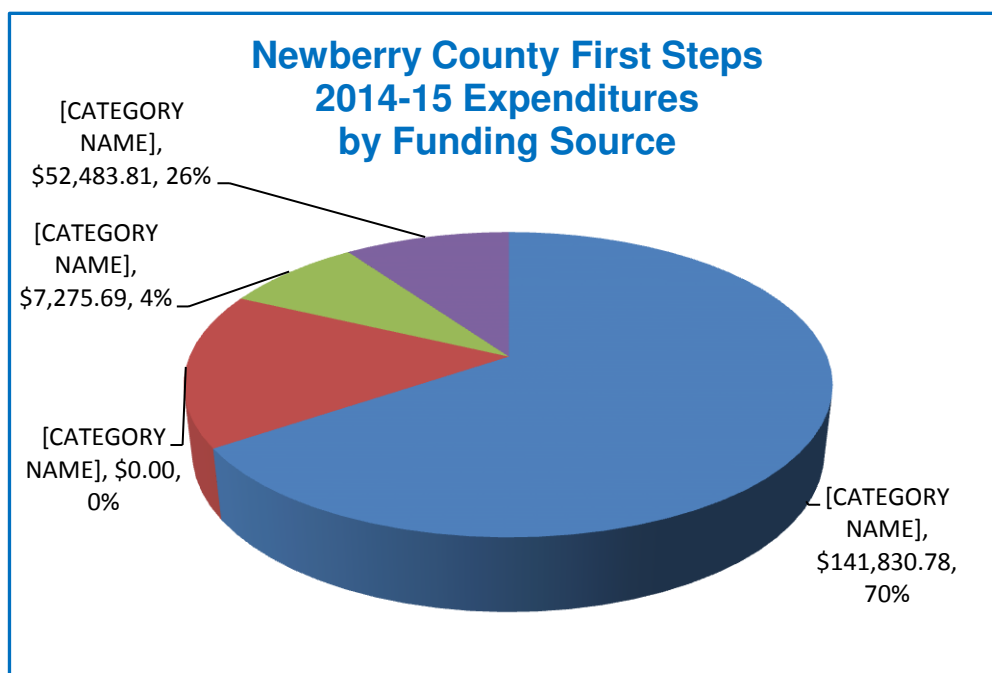
Thank you to our partners!

School District of Newberry County	Sonic
Kaplan Early Learning Company	Stokes-Trainor
EdVenture Children's Museum	Midlands Gives
WACH Fox 57	WKDK
	Newberry Observer

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Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$201,590.28

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 42.1%

*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	\$32,523	\$0	\$2,858	\$17,250	\$52,631	27%
Library-Based Program	\$29,690	\$0	\$2,425	\$17,349	\$49,464	25%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$6,636	\$0	\$0	\$9,583	\$16,219	8%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$28,691	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,691	15%
Child Care Training	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,992	\$0	\$2,992	2%
Other Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Program Support	\$29,731	\$0	\$0	\$3,096	\$32,827	17%
Administrative Support	\$13,559	\$0	\$0	\$1,032	\$14,591	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$141,831	\$0	\$7,276	\$48,310	\$197,417	

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

Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$976,504 from sources outside of state government. That's 36 cents for every state dollar.

Dedication Leads to Success

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

This young lady came to our program four months pregnant in her junior year of high school. We will refer to her as Nautica in this story. She was a Beta Club student, in the Marching Band and Concert Band and a section leader. This young lady was a leader during group sessions. The other teens in group meetings would take note of Nautica asking questions about her baby and requesting additional home visits for further discussion about her child's development. Soon the younger students would do the same. They would also ask Nautica how she was able to make good grades and attend to her child's needs. Nautica explained about her use of information and resources provided by the Family Literacy and PAT programs and that she was taking advantage of everything that was offered.

Soon the others started paying attention and attending evening sessions. Nautica never missed a session, or a home visit. Summer of 2013-14, she participated in our Summer Program as a prenatal parent, which was held in partnership with our local county library's summer reading program. This summer she never missed a session taking her daughter to the 2014-15 summer reading program.

The other parents would comment about how well behaved and actively involved her daughter was in the different sessions. Nautica explained that during prenatal development children are able to hear and respond to their environment and her daughter had already been exposed the summer before she was born.

Nautica also especially enjoyed the parenting sessions with the older parents. She would bring her mother as well. Nautica went through tough transitions after the baby was born. She was threatened by the father of the child and his mother. The Family Literacy/PAT program referred her to one of their partnering agencies for advice. The problem was addressed and handled immediately. She is now a full time freshman at a nearby University and working a part-time job. She and her family remain active participants in our program.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$201,590.28
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Center for Child Care Career Development: \$2,000

Friends of the Newberry County Library: \$1,000

Midlands Gives: \$677

Stokes-Trainor Auto Dealership: \$500

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Women: \$100

In-Kind Support

School District of Newberry County

Department of Social Services

DHEC, Newberry County

USC Children's Law Center

USC/CCR&R

Newberry County Library

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

A Team Effort

County and State Partnerships Work Together

During the summer, the State Office of First Steps scheduled site visits with all forty-six counties to work on 2016 priority goals and objectives. Select Board members had the opportunity to meet and have a 3-hour conversation with the Visiting Team (County's Technical Assistant, other State personnel, State Board members, and a community representative). This meeting gave the Board representatives of each program the opportunity to share the Partnership's successes and challenges since inception.

Goals and Objectives set for 2016

From this shared evaluation of Newberry County First Steps Partnership's performance, all felt very comfortable with the derived goals and objectives for the coming year and the help which will be provided by the State Office through the county's Technical Assistant.

The draft goals were presented to the Board and approved unanimously. The targeted areas were Strategy Performance and Resource Development. We believe that the ability to work together with limited resources helps to improve the lives of all the county's children and families.



Working with our community partners to get children ready to succeed at school and in life.



Achieving Level "A"

Newberry County First Steps was a major contributor in helping us here at Newberry Child Development Center to achieve our "A+" rating. Through technical assistance for our teachers, supplying classroom materials and outdoor equipment—even supplies for our little ones' art center—Newberry County First Steps helped truly make us what we are today: the only center in Newberry County to hold the rating of "A+". Thank you for all that you have done for us here at Newberry Child Development Center.

Mary Green and Jody Sawyer, Co-Directors

First Steps Partnership Board

Community Collaborates to Increase Public Awareness of First Steps' Work

Elizabeth Bozard, Board Chair

As the public becomes more aware of the importance of Early Childhood Development, our agency's role in ensuring that all students begin school ready to succeed continues to gain support in the public and private sectors. Research has shown and continues to show the value of what we do. However, as with any agency, finances remain one of our most limiting factors. Newberry County First Steps has collaborated with the School District of Newberry County, the Hal Kohn Library, local child care centers, local businesses and elected officials to make the most efficient and effective use of our funds.

Investing in Our Children's Future

I am very proud to be a part of Newberry County First Steps to School Readiness Board. We have a group of creative and dedicated individuals who are committed to our mission and who work well together to accomplish our goals. I am looking forward to the coming year as we continue to invest in our children's future.

Newberry County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Elizabeth Bozard, Chair	Nurse, Lovelace Medical Clinic	Healthcare Provider
Clyde E. Hill, Vice Chair	Assistant Director, Triangle Child Care Center	Childcare & Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
Frances Wright, Secretary	Head Start Teacher, GLEAMNS	GLEAMNS Appointee
Crystal Hayward, Treasurer	Lowe's Home Improvement of Newberry	Pre-K/Primary Educator
Beth Brooks	Director of Elementary Ed, Newberry County School Dist.	School District Appointee
Charlene Caldwell	Program Manager, DSS/Early Care & Education	Transportation Provider
Rita Crump-Saddler	Coordinator, Parents As Teachers	Family Ed. Trg. Support Provider
Rebecca "Beth" Deaton	Coordinator I, SCDSS—State Office	Legislative Appointee
David Green	Director, Adult Education, Newberry County School Dist.	Family Ed. Trg. Support Provider
Cindy Lindler	Case Manager, SCDHEC Midlands	Social Agency Appointee
Kenneth McBride	Director, DSS	Social Agency Appointee
Kim Morris	Retired School Nurse	Healthcare Provider
Rev. Johnny Mack Scurry	Minister	Faith Community
Mamie Shippy	Director, Sunshine House	Early Childhood Education
Martha Suber	Assistant Principal, Whitmire Community School	Legislative Appointee
Robert Summer	Owner, Summer Media	Business Community
Latrishia Tucker	Teacher, Newberry County School District	Pre-K/Primary Educator
Patricia Turner	Retired, Whitten Center	Legislative Appointee
Reggie Wicker	Principal, Newberry Elementary School	Transportation Provider
T. Sam Ziady	Director, Newberry County Library System	County Library Appointee

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 Newberry County:
Call (803) 734-0232

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

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