

BERKELEY COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

**Parents as Teachers**

**Imagination Library**

**Child Care Training**

**Child Care Scholarships**



# Annual Report

2015-16



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Berkeley County
Children Under Five	289,990	13,523
Children In Poverty	26.4%	20.7%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	28.6%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	15.7%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Berkeley County First Steps has leveraged \$1,917,090 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.22 for every dollar received.**
- **1575 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 95 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 47 hours** of training for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **50 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 264**

### Berkeley County First Steps

6215 Murray Drive  
 Hanahan, SC 29410

Phone: (843) 863-3030

#### Board Chair

Jean Gooch

berkeleyfirststeps@hotmail.com

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

### Berkeley County First Steps Adrienne Troy-Frazier Executive Director

In South Carolina where choices for full-day, inclusive child care programs are limited, the qualifications for teachers are lower than in other states, child-teacher ratios are higher, and limited outreach is given to parents who need and want information. All of these glaring gaps have created a need for practitioners in this field to increase their roles has advocates for families of young children. In the decades to come, a brighter light will shine in the Tri-County, bringing additional resources and reform because of coming industrial expansion. Since the beginning of last year, businesses have committed to an investment of \$785 million and the creation of 3,200 new jobs in Berkeley County alone. Elected leaders are currently studying the demand for workers, housing and infrastructure, however, we must give more attention to increasing the supply of full-day and full-year, high-quality early care and education programs for the current and expanding workforce. High-quality, early childhood education plays a critical role in success in both school and life. Various studies demonstrate that excellent learning experiences boost graduation rates, lowers juvenile crime rates and the need for remedial course work while expanding earning potential.

Berkeley County First Steps works to address some of the unmet needs in the county by increasing access to early childhood with vouchers for scholarships and providing parenting programs that best meet the needs of children and families. Although we do a lot of good, it is still is not enough. No one agency has the fiscal and programmatic resources to be enough to address the current supply and demand for high quality early education in our region. We respond to gaps in early care and education systems by continuously strengthening our connections with local partners from the public and private sector. With support and collaboration we can expand services for families as they prepare young children to be successful in life.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Early Identification and Referral
- Imagination Library

### State Programs

- BabyNet
- First Steps 4k

# 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, Berkeley County First focuses its investments in.... Quality Child Care, Family Strengthening and Early Intervention.**

# 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

### Berkeley First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our EI&R families:

- 60% - were low-income families
- 80% - evidenced delays, or the potential for delay
- 60% - from single-parent homes

*We appreciate the support Berkeley First Steps has provided to our families when they have had developmental concerns about their children. They are a wonderful community resource!*

Christine Tiller, Tomorrow Montessori



Last year, I referred three of the children in my caseload after screening them with the OAE hearing equipment. Two of the children received tubes in their ears and their language development has improved greatly. The other child is being followed by the ENT. *Nadine Todd, Parent Educator BCFS PAT Program*

## EI&R by the Numbers 2015-16

Children Served	5
Materials Distributed	515
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	2

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

- ✓ Distributed 515 materials throughout county pertaining to BabyNet and early detection of delays
- ✓ Screened 5 number of children using Ages and Stages Questionnaire
- ✓ Referred 2 number of families to community resources after screening indicated need

## Thank you to our partners!

Berkeley County child care centers      Family Connections  
 Berkeley County School District Audiologist  
 BabyNet      CVS Health

## Berkeley County First Steps

6215 Murray Drive  
 Hanahan, SC 29410  
 843-863-3030  
[www.berkeleyfirststeps.org](http://www.berkeleyfirststeps.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

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

92% ... live in poverty  
 51% ... are single-parent households  
 40% - have depression, substance abuse, or mental health challenges  
 33% - low maternal education  
 30% - children with potential delays



*The PAT Program helped me become a better parent to my daughter while helping me obtain my educational degree.*

*Jessica Mack*

## PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	95 Families	
Children Served	95 children	
Total Home Visits	1577	
Hours Spent Serving Families	1575	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS .54 (11% increase)	ACIRI .57 child (19% increase) .50 adult (17% increase)

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2 home visits per family per month
- ✓ Identified and addressed 46 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices write something about your pre-to-post changes KIPS, LSP, or other evidence
- ✓ Improved literacy skills write something about pre-to-post changes in ACIRI, activities from PAT lessons, the IAL grant, # of books distributed (Matrix C18), or other evidence
- ✓ Made 150 connections for families to services such as BabyNet, Head Start, Mental Health, BCSD, Child Care

## Thank you to our partners!

Berkeley County School District

ABC Child Care



# Imagination Library



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

## Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age**. **One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children's brains is to read to them.**

Berkeley First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Berkeley First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



## Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	164
Books Given to Children 0-5	1111

### This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 164 children
- ✓ Collaborated with My First Books SC to transition program to a new sponsor



### Thank you to our partners!

- Dollywood Foundation
- Magnolia Gardens
- Walmart Foundation

# Child Care Training

**Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.**

## Program Description

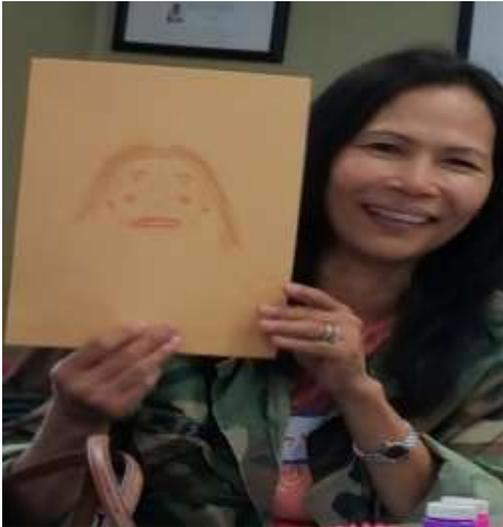
High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

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.

*Thank you so much! Out of all of my required DSS hours, your classes have been my favorite. Thank you for the real tangible things I can hold on to.*

**Child Care Training Sponsored by Berkeley First Steps, 2015-16**

Topic:	Sessions:
The "Getting to Know Me" series	8 modules
Anti-bias series	3 sessions
Program Administration Series	5 sessions
Nutrition and Physical Activity	2 modules
CSEFEL	2 modules
Observation & Assessment	1 session



## Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	271
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	87
Number of Training Sessions Offered	25

**This year, our Training program provided:**

- ✓ 87 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 36.5 hours of certified training and 9 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 3 Administrative Quality Improvement grants to participants of our Business Cohort Series

## Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Resource and Referral
- DHEC
- SCPITC
- Strivent Financial

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# Child Care Scholarships

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

## Program Description

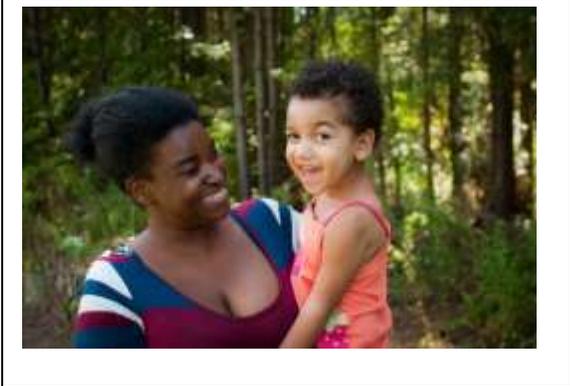
Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends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

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 85% ... were from single parent homes
- 53% ...suffered from depression or mental health issues

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.

*Our little guy turns four in a few days and was just accepted into the 4K program. He started First Steps as an infant with delays but now he's doing well in all areas of development. PAT/Scholarship Family*



## Scholarships by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	13
Providers Served	6

## This year, our Scholarship program:

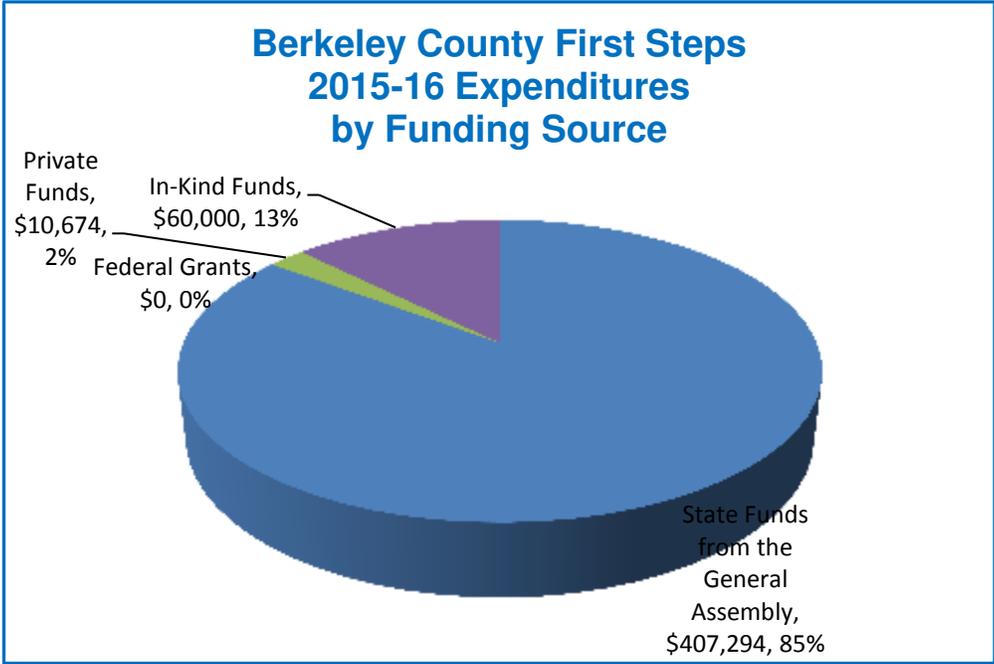
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Provided 13 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Made 4 connections for families to services such as BabyNet and Head Start.
- ✓ Supported 6 small businesses ) in Berkeley County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

## Thank you to our partners!

- DSS
- ABC Program
- Parents As Teachers
- Nurse Family Partnership

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$477,968.78**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16\*: 17.35%**

\*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

## 2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$254,175	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$314,175	66%
Imagination Library	\$934	\$0	\$1,108	\$0	\$2,042	0%
Early Identification and Referral	\$9,387	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,387	2%
Child Care Training	\$53,363	\$0	\$2,922	\$0	\$56,285	12%
Program Support	\$68,710	\$0	\$5,923	\$0	\$74,633	16%
Administrative Support	\$20,725	\$0	\$722	\$0	\$21,447	4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$407,294</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,675</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$477,969</b>	

*Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016*

**Since inception, Berkeley First Steps has leveraged \$1,917,090 from sources outside of state government. That's 22 cents for every state dollar.**



### **Berkeley County First 2nd Annual Early Childhood Diaper Derby and Youth Dash**

Berkeley County First Steps and Berkeley-Dorchester Head Start program hosts its annual Early Childhood Diaper Derby, Youth Dash and Family Wellness Festival each year in March in partnership with the Berkeley Head Start program. The festival is held at the Berkeley Intermediate School, Moncks Corner.



Parents and children five years old and younger in attendance have the opportunity to crawl, wobble, walk or run along a short course to promote healthy lifestyles and regular exercise regimens and all participants will receive awards. The purpose of the event is to promote physical exercise and nutrition in the early years.

The South Carolina DHEC Lowcountry Regional Health Director, Nick Davidson said, "In South Carolina today, two out of three adults and one out of three children are overweight or obese. One of our state's most critical health issues, obesity contributes to diseases that kill the most people in our state, make the most people sick, and cost our state the most money. By increasing access to affordable fruits and vegetables, offering educational programs on nutrition, and providing access to facilities that offer opportunities for physical activity, we can work together to reduce obesity and provide for a healthier South Carolina."

On the day of the event, the first 150 families to enter the event receive a free gift. Live entertainment, amusements, and health and wellness screenings and resources are offered.

## **Thank you to our partners!**



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

## **I CAN Be All That I CAN Be- Jycohia Ravenell**

Teen Mom Overcomes Hurdles to Achieve Career Dreams/Parents As Teachers

She was intelligent and at the top of her class but, at age 14, Jycohia Ravenell was pregnant with her first child. She feared for her future but with the support of Abbey Mills, Parent Educator for Berkeley County First Steps, Parents As Teachers program, Jycohia was able to overcome her fears of not being able to succeed. Mills developed a relationship and provided supports that allowed Jycohia to complete high school with honors despite a second pregnancy at age 17. She went on to join the Navy Reserve and will continue attending college while caring for her daughters and working for the Moncks Corner Police Department. Jycohia is an example of how teen pregnancy doesn't mean that one's dreams must end. With dedication, drive and support from family and the community, this mom is winning.



## **Johnathan Chambers: Committed Dad Makes Time for Three Children**

Traditionally caring for children is seen as the mother's task in rural areas. Fathers are expected to earn a living to support their family and for some that means strict working hours and high levels of employment demands. Johnathan Chambers works the third shift, sleeps two hours before greeting his Parents As Teachers home visitor. For Jonathan, now a single father of three children, the presence of a Parent Educator means he has someone to share his children's milestones with and to ask the important questions that all parents have about child development. Jonathan knows his children can be successful, and he is committing to giving them the best start in life.



Photo Credit: Nadine Todd

## Parents As Leaders- Former PAT Client Shares Leadership Journey

Tawanna Mayes has been a part of Berkeley County First Steps since 2006, after she had her first child. She was a young mother who learned so much from the First Steps program and her Parent Educator.

She was educated on the importance of reading to a young child and how it all can impact the school readiness for our youngest learners. She stayed with the program through the birth of her three children. The group connections also gave her young children the opportunity to be around other children their age, which they didn't have before.

She believes that children learning to interact at an early age with other peers is a very important skills. She admired the program so much that it inspired her to continue her education to be able to help educate the youngest learners in Berkeley County. She enrolled in college and graduated. During an internship she worked alongside the Director of the Berkeley County First Steps and gained an even better view of all the program does the community, not only the children in the program but also the parents and educators. After completing her internship with the program she joined the program's Board of Directors.

She has since received an associate degree in human services, and she currently working as a Head Start teacher assistant. The program has instilled in her the importance education is for all of our young children and the role parents play in educating their children. We are our child's first teacher.

Mayes wouldn't be the parent she is today if it had not been for Berkeley County First Steps. She appreciates what the program has done for her, and she can only imagine the number of families the program has helped through the years.



**Berkeley County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16**

Name	Position	Board Category
Jean Gooch, Chair	Retired/ABC Special Needs, ECE Instructor TCC	Early Childhood
Paulette Walker, Ed	Adult Education Administrator	School District
Jane Farrell	Retired/ Early Educator	Business Community
Crystal Campbell	Quality Coach, USC CCRR	Early Childhood
Sharon Fashion	Deputy Director Berkeley Library System	Library Appointee
Martha Dunlap	DHEC Health Educator	DHEC Appointee/Health
Samone Johnson	DSS Service Coordinator	DSS Appointee
Elmire Raven	Executive Director My Sister's House	NFP serving children and women
Linda Fontaine	Emergency Responder, Red Cross	PAT Grandparent
Tawana Williams	Teacher Assistant, BCSD	PAT Consumer
Marina Lopez	Oral History Coordinator, Citadel	Higher Ed/ELL
Lyndsay Watkins –Knepp	Lead Family Support Coordinator BCSD/Head Start	Head Start Appointee
Donna McQueen, Esq.	Attorney	Legal Expert
Brenda Campbell	Early Educator	Faith Based



# 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 Berkeley County:  
LOCAL SPOE PHONE # - 843-740-3193

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

# Thank you donors!

## Funding Support

Magnolia Gardens  
Walmart Foundation  
Cooper River Bridge Run Fund  
South Carolina Center for Child Care Career  
Development

## In-Kind Support

Berkeley County School District  
National Guard Battalion  
Nurse Family Partnership Program  
Berkeley Citizens  
BILO  
Publix  
Bojangles  
Starbucks  
Minuteman Printing



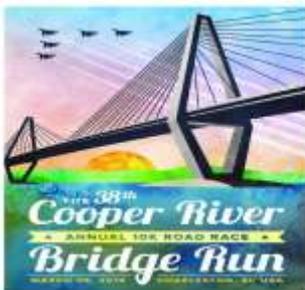
## How your support helps children in Berkeley County:

- ✓ \$10 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$25 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$250 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

## Save the Date!

Register for the Diaper Derby and Youth Dash online at:

<https://berkeleycountyyouthdashfestival.eventbrite.com>



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