

CLARENDON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training



Annual Report

2015-16



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Clarendon County
Children Under Five	289,990	1,709
Children In Poverty	26.4%	39.1%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	23.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	17.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Clarendon County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,176,918** from sources outside state government. **That's \$.37 for every dollar received.**
- **424 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 30 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- Improved parenting practices through **14 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 257**

Clarendon County First Steps

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Manning, SC 29102

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Board Chair

Tonia M. Smith, GPC

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Clarendon County First Steps
Sharon P. Williams, MPA
 Executive Director

Thank you to our many and diverse partners for all you do to help us prepare Clarendon County's children for success in school and in life. Whether you serve on the Partnership Board, serve as a vendor that implements one or more school readiness programs in partnership with us, serve as a source of referrals (referring families with young children to one or more of the school readiness programs) for our programs, serve as a source of funding (in whole or in part) for one or more of our programs, or partner with us in any number of other ways, we greatly appreciate you! Your willingness to collaborate with us enables us to maximize our limited resources so that we can reach as many of Clarendon County's families with young children as we can. Your willingness to collaborate with us since First Steps' inception has enabled us to make significant progress towards achieving our mission to "prepare Clarendon County's children for success in school and in life". We sincerely thank you for all that you have done thus far, and we look forward to working with you to continue to make a positive difference in lives of Clarendon County's youngest and most vulnerable citizens and their families. Working together, we have and will continue to implement quality programs and services that will enable our children to arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed!

Thank you!



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Training

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, Clarendon County First focuses its investments in family strengthening (this program seeks to promote early literacy development too), quality child care, and school transition.

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

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

- 76.7% Have 2 or more risk factors associated with children not being ready for school;
- 30% Are single-parent households in need of other services; and
- 23% Are teen custodial parents.



Xavier draws and colors pictures during Literacy Saturday in Summerton, SC.

"When I grow up, I want to be a plumber. I will need a wrench. I will get paid \$5 a day. I am going to buy a real car. Being a plumber is going to be awesome."

-Henry

PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	30	
Children Served	31	
Total Home Visits	456	
Hours Spent Serving Families	424	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> or <i>KIPS</i> (pre-to-post):	0.79	
Average gain, <i>Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory</i> or <i>ACIRI</i> (pre-to-post):	Adult- 0.67	Child- 0.94

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Identified and addressed 14 potential developmental delays.
- ✓ Improved access to resources to promote early literacy skills. 100% of participant families' children were enrolled in and received books monthly through the Imagination Library. Additionally, programs loaned 286 books and 185 literacy kits and gave 595 books to participant families.
- ✓ Made 25 connections for families to services such as transportation, adult education, housing, early care and education, speech, and other important services participant families needed.

Thank you to our partners!

Clarendon School District One
Clarendon School District Two
Clarendon School District Three

Clarendon County First Steps

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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.**

Clarendon County 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 Clarendon County 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	179
Books Given to Children 0-5	1,551

“When I grow up, I want to be a race car driver. I want to drive car 95. I will love going fast and winning races. I will make \$1,000 a day. I am going to buy hot wheels. I will have 1 or 2 girls. I will still love Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.”

-Isaiah

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Continued to receive funding for the program from Clarendon County Council;
- ✓ Provided one book per month to participant children. Children were referred by parent education programs, early care and education programs, and others that work with parents of preschool age children; and
- ✓ Provided American Library Association Early Literacy Guides with tips on reading to children of various ages to all new program participants.

Thank you to our partners!

- Clarendon County Council
- Clarendon School Districts One, Two and Three
- Clarendon County’s Child Care Community
- Dollywood Foundation

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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.

"I want to be a librarian when I grow up. My mom is a librarian. I will tell children about the books. I will get to have a book fair! I will get paid \$50 a month. I will help people in my church and people that need food with my money."

-Abby



Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly presented participants with awards for completing the training series and for being exceptional early care and education providers.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Clarendon County First Steps, 2015-16

Topic:	Hours:
• American Heart Saver Pediatric First Aid	3
• American Heart Saver Pediatric CPR	3
• Social & Emotional Development Within the Context of Relationships, Parts 1-3	6
• Responsive Routines, Environments, and Strategies to Support Social & Emotional Development in Infants & Toddlers, Parts 1-4	8
• Individualized Intervention with Infants & Toddlers: Determining the Meaning of Behavior & Developing Appropriate Responses	2
• Program Administration: A Closer Look, Parts 1-2	5

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 20 early childhood staff with high quality training;
- ✓ 21 hours of certified training and 6 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual recertification requirements; and
- ✓ 6 follow-up visits with early care and education providers to help them to put training into practice.

Thank you to our partners!

- Clarendon County's Child Care Community
- Deborah Richardson & Central Carolina Technical College
- Carletta Isreal & Williamsburg County First Steps
- Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly & Williamsburg Technical 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 2015

Families Served	46
Children Served	47
Home/School Visits	282

**CTK program data is for June-August 2015, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.*



"When I grow up, I want to be a dentist. I want to clean people's teeth. I am going to put silver and gold on their teeth. I will charge \$5.00 for a visit. I will be able to pull teeth out and put different teeth in."

-Jakiya

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

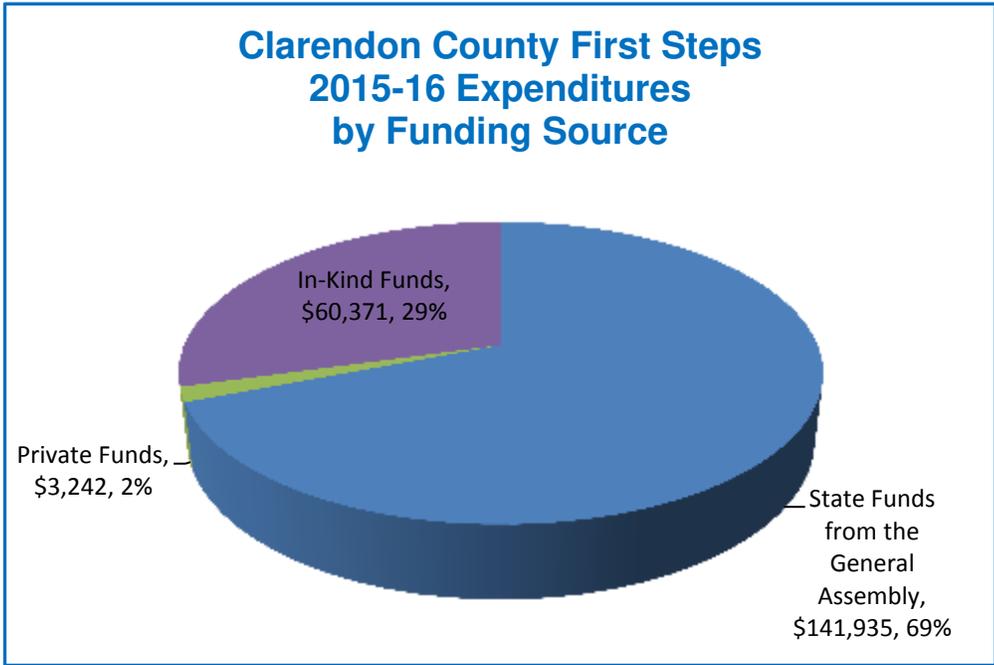
- ✓ Continued to receive substantial assistance from local Head Start Centers in identifying children for the program. Partnering with Head Start allowed us to be able to use our limited dollars to serve those children most in need of CTK services.
- ✓ Continued to receive substantial funding from Clarendon School District Two to serve rising five-year-old kindergartners slated to attend the Manning Early Childhood Center. Funding from Clarendon School District Two covered the cost of tool-kits and stipends and mileage reimbursement to teachers.
- ✓ 100% of parents were satisfied with the program and the services delivered.

Thank you to our partners!

Clarendon School Districts One, Two and Three
 Fleming-Felder & Paxville Head Start Centers
 Kaplan Early Learning Company
 Wee Academy Learning Center

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Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$205,548

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 31%

*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	\$41,510	\$0	\$0	\$43,528	\$85,038	41%
Imagination Library	\$1,472	\$0	\$1,472	\$0	\$2,944	1%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,839	\$0	\$0	\$11,425	\$15,264	7%
Child Care Training	\$25,726	\$0	\$1,575	\$0	\$27,301	13%
Program Support	\$45,433	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45,433	22%
Administrative Support	\$23,955	\$0	\$195	\$5,418	\$29,568	14%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$141,935	\$0	\$3,242	\$60,371	\$205,548	

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

Since inception, Clarendon County First Steps has leveraged \$941,556.00 from sources outside of state government. That's 30 cents for every state dollar.



Community Impact

Parents As Teachers: Making a difference in the lives of our children!

By: Kathleen Lawson

I have been a parent educator for many years, and over the course of those years, I have seen many things. I have met parents who, at our first meeting, were very reluctant to participate in the program. Whether it is due to their own personal experiences with those who work in education or social services or from stories they have heard from others within the community, some parents are very reluctant to participate in a program that will cause those from the outside to get an up close and personal look into their lives. We all have, at one point or another over the course of our lives struggled with trust issues, so I absolutely understand how difficult it is for some of the families we serve to trust that I am there to help them and their child or children and not to hurt them.

I began working with David (not the actual name of the child) when he was just a few months old. He was born prematurely. I shared with David's mother that because he was born prematurely, there was the potential for developmental delays. In time, David was



diagnosed has autistic. While his mother was devastated to learn that her son was autistic, she committed to working with me and our program to do all that we could do to help David to get on track and stay on track. She honored her commitment to receive home visits, visited the parenting center to access resources to help her son, attended group meetings that allowed her to receive support from and give support to other parents of preschool children, she read articles that I would give her, and she followed up on advice I would give her about addressing certain things to ensure that David was getting what he needed. She and I talked on many occasions about David's struggles and how difficult it was for her to see him struggle the way him struggle, but together, we were determined to get David where we knew he could be.

Today, David is in the five-year-old kindergarten program. He received services this past summer through the Countdown to Kindergarten program, and was very excited about the book bag and all of the things in it. He has some developmental delays and a way to go before he is where he should be on the developmental continuum; however, he has made extraordinary gains and is doing quite well. Thanks to his mother and me working together, we have connected him with the necessary services at school, such as receives speech and other occupational services.

I once heard someone say that "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care", and I have found that to be very true with David's mother and other families I get to work with as a parent educator. His mother knew that I was there to help her to help David. She trusted me, and I did not take that trust lightly. She knew that she could call on me any time to ask a question or tell me something. In fact, although David has now officially graduated the PAT program, his mother still calls, e-mails, or sends me a text message to share David's latest accomplishment. I am so proud of our work with David and the various early interventions we have sought and secured for him and his family! David is a prime example of what can happen when we invest money and resources in programs such as Parents As Teachers-programs that intervene during the earliest and most critical times in a child's life. I know David is going to do well, and I look forward to witnessing his accomplishments!

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

Spotlight...

Clarendon County First Steps Partnership is very fortunate to have board members who do not just talk about collaborating, but actively work to ensure that we are, together, doing all we can to ensure that we maximize the limited opportunities and resources that become available to us. Such board members have the wisdom and vision to see beyond their specific position and/or organization and use opportunities as they present themselves in order to make a larger and greater impact on our community. In a county where resources are very limited, such visionaries are a precious commodity none of us should ever take for granted!

Tonia M. Smith is one such treasure I do not take for granted. She is the grants administrator and special projects coordinator for Clarendon County School District Two. I have known and worked with Tonia for a number of years (long before she joined the Partnership Board), and whenever she was working on a grant application (whether as the director of Communities in Schools of Clarendon County, director of Safe Schools Healthy Students or in her current position within the school district), Tonia made it a point to reach out to Clarendon County First Steps to collaborate in some way. Thanks to her unwavering dedication to the children and families of Clarendon County, CCFS has over the years received funding to support Parents As Teacher, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Child Care Training and Professional Development. Thank you Tonia for doing your part to help CCFS to fulfill our mission “to prepare children for success in school and in life”!

Clarendon County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Tonia M. Smith, GPC, Chairperson	Director, TMS Consulting	Nonprofit Organization
Pamela Clavon-Brunson, Vice- Chairperson	Director, Golpher 1, LLC	Business Community
Jennifer Jean, Secretary	Children’s Librarian, Harvin Clarendon County Library	Local Library
Christy Coker	Kindergarten Teacher	Pre-kindergarten-Primary Educator
Dr. Connie Dennis	Superintendent	Clarendon School District Three
Kathleen Gibson	Parenting Coordinator	Clarendon School District One
Priscilla Green	Kindergarten Teacher	Pre-kindergarten-Primary Educator
Judy Holmes	Director, Gifted, Talented & Special Projects	Clarendon School District Two
Helen Jackson	N/A	Parent of a preschool child
Joni James-Jackson	Director, Wee Academy Learning Center	Child Care Provider (center)
Michael Jonas	CS/IT Manager, Santee-Wateree RTA	Transportation Provider
Robin Layton	Director, Clarendon County Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Darla Lee	Nurse, Clarendon County DHEC	DHEC Representative
Georgia Mance	Director, Wateree Head Start	Head Start Representative
Jason Montgomery	Judicial Clerk, City of Manning	Local Government
Wanda Nelson	Assistant Pastor, Goodwill Baptist Church	Faith Community
Dr. Myra Pearson	Pastor, Jehovah-Jireh Outreach Ministry	Family Education, Training & Support Provider
Faye Ragin	Director, Faye’s Day Care	Child Care Provider (family/group)

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 Clarendon County:
843-669-8689

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

Thank you!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina
(through *South Carolina First Steps*)
Clarendon County Council
Clarendon County School District Two
SC Center for Child Care Career Development

In-Kind Support

Clarendon School District One
Clarendon School District Two
Clarendon School District Three
Experience Works
First Book USA
Wee Academy Learning Center