EDGEFIELD COUNTY

FIRST STEPS

Getting children ready for school.

Family Literacy

Imagination Library

Nurse Family Partnership

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

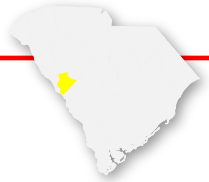
Annual Report

2015-16

OUR VISION:

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

EDGEFIELD COUNTY



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Edgefield County
Children Under Five	289,990	1,065
Children In Poverty	26.4%	26.5%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	17.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	20.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust

- Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged $1,596,146 from sources outside state government. **That's 62 cents for every dollar received.**
- Over **4,000 books** were given to children.
- **Childcare professionals received 35 hours** of child care training for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **104 hours of Parenting Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 134**

Edgefield County First Steps

Physical Address	Mailing Address
416 Calhoun Street	P.O. Box 295
Johnston, SC 29832	Edgefield, SC 29824

edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net

Phone: 803-275-0800
Fax: 803-275-0800

Board Chair — Bridget Clark

Executive Director — Candi Lalonde

Edgefield County First Steps
Candi Lalonde
Executive Director

Since 2001, Edgefield County First Steps has been serving young children and their families with high quality programs designed to prepare each child for school. Our vision is for every child in Edgefield County to enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

We are able to do this through strong collaborations with our school district, health organizations, and local partners. This year we fulfilled our legislative mandate as the community convener around the needs of preschool children and their families by hosting a meeting that addressed the early childhood needs and resources in our county. This group will continue their work in the coming years to further ensure that early childhood education remains a priority in Edgefield County.

With the support from our community, we will continue to provide early intervention services, strengthen families, improve children's health and well-being, and increase the quality of early care and education in Edgefield County.

I thank all of the dedicated individuals who serve on the Edgefield County Partnership Board for sharing their time, resources, and expertise.

I thank all the program staff members who work directly with the children and their families for their hard work and dedication.

Lastly, I thank the legislators, businesses, organizations, and citizens of Edgefield County for their support of and confidence in our work.

Heathy Start | Family Strengthening | Early Intervention | Quality Child Care | Early Education | School Transition

County Programs

Family Literacy
Imagination Library
Nurse Family Partnership
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships

State Programs

BabyNet

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, Edgefield County First Steps focuses its investments in Healthy Start, Family Strengthening, Quality Childcare, and School Transition strategies.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY FIRST STEPS
Getting children ready for school.

Nurse-Family Partnership

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

Nurse-Family Partnership

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

100%	**… live in poverty**
13%	**… did not graduate from high school**
17%	**…were teen mothers**

NFP by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	24
Number of Home Visits	237

This year, our NFP program:

- ✓ **89% of babies born were healthy birth weights**
- ✓ **100% of babies have received age appropriate immunizations**
- ✓ **100% of babies have had age appropriate developmental screenings and there have been no delays**
- ✓ **100% of mothers took their prenatal vitamins**
- ✓ **96% of mothers had a medical home**
- ✓ **3 mothers graduated upon their child's 2nd birthday**

Thank you to our partners!

Carolina Health Centers, Inc.

McCormick County First Steps

Edgefield County DHEC

Edgefield County First Steps

P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net

Family Literacy

Parents are their child's first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities

Our family literacy program:

- ✓ **Helps parents of young children increase their education levels**
- ✓ **Teaches parents how to support their child's literacy and overall development**
- ✓ **Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education**

Collecting fall leaves for an art project is just one of the interactive lessons that parents and children do together in family literacy.

Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our family literacy program families:

100% **… live in poverty**

100% **… didn't graduate high school**

63% **… enrolled were teen parents**

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2015-16

Adults Served	16
Children Served	29
Adult Education Hours Offered	285
Early Childhood Education Hours Offered	380
Parenting Education Hours Offered	97
Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED	2

This year, our Family Literacy program:

- ✓ **82% of adults who were post tested made grade level gains (pre to post TABE scores in reading and/or math)**
- ✓ **75% of adults who were post tested made gains on the Life Skills Progression (LSP)**
- ✓ **90% of children under age 2.5 who were post tested made gains on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)**
- ✓ **100% of children ages 2.5 to Kindergarten who were post tested made gains on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT)**
- ✓ **100% of children in K-4 or K-5 were promoted to the next grade level**

Thank you to our partners!

Edgefield County Schools

Edgefield County First Steps

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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.**

Edgefield County First Steps is the local sponsor of the 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 Edgefield 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.

Research shows that reading to a child early and often is one of the best and easiest ways to ensure success in school.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	187
Books Given to Children 0-5	1659

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ **Provided one book per month to 187 children who were referred from state and local organizations**
- ✓ **Pre-survey results indicate that 52% of the families enrolled have fewer than 10 books in their homes**
- ✓ **Post-survey results indicate that 43% of the families enrolled report an increase in the amount of time they spend reading to their children**
- ✓ **100% of this program is funded by private donations**

Sponsor a child today for just $27!

Thank you to our partners!

Dollywood Foundation
Maxwell and Halford Drug
Edgefield County Hospital
Creative Learning Center
Town of Trenton
Reel Insurance Agency
Women Involved in Rural Electrification c/o Aiken Electric Cooperative
More than 50 additional donors

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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.

"This year, our trainings focused on Active Learning and it was great to be able to practice the skills that our instructors were teaching".

Donna Langley, Preschool Teacher

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

- Language and the Brain
- Keys to Communicating with Parents
- Healthy Eating for Young Children
- DAP in the Preschool Years
- Director Forum: Training Needs
- IT Field Guide: Training Module 5
- Preschooler's Growth and Development
- Planning Physical Activity
- Behavior Management
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Boss or Mentor
- Block Play
- Meeting the Challenge
- FLIP IT
- The Link Between Observation, Assessment, and Language and Literacy
- Using Language and Literacy in Guiding Children's Behavior
- Effective Teaching Strategies for Supporting Social-Emotional Literacy
- The Role of Meaningful Experiences in Supporting Early Language/Literacy

A workshop on block play gave teachers an opportunity for experiential learning.

Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	200
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	76
Number of Training Sessions Offered	16

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ **76 early childhood staff with high quality training**
- ✓ **34 hours of certified training and 1 hour of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements**
- ✓ **6 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice**

Thank you to our partners!

Creative Learning Center
Little Folks Day Care
Saluda County First Steps
SC Child Care Resource and Referral
Center for Child Care Career Development

Edgefield County First Steps
P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
803-275-0800
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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Edgefield 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.

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

92%	...	**live in poverty**
50%	...	**exposed to parental/caregiver substance abuse**
3%	...	**exposed to parental/caregiver depression**
17%	...	**exposed to domestic violence**

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

All of the scholarship children under age 4 are enrolled in our Imagination Library program and receive a book in the mail every month.

Parenting workshops are offered bi-monthly to parents of our scholarship children.

I appreciate my First Steps scholarship so much – without it, I could not afford to send my daughter to such a great center.

Kristin White, Parent

Art is one of the favorite activities of the children in the child care center.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	13
Providers Served	2

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ **Identified and addressed 3 potential developmental delays among scholarship children**
- ✓ **Made 1 connection for a family for school district special services**
- ✓ **Supported 2 small businesses in Edgefield County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care**
- ✓ **Provided 7 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as quality child care, language and literacy, nutrition, and social emotional development.**

Thank you to our partners!

Creative Learning Center

Little Folks Day Care

BabyNet

Edgefield County School District

Edgefield County First Steps

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Countdown to Kindergarten

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

Children Served	4
Families Served	4
Home/School Visits	24

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

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ **According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in approaches to learning, emotional/social development, physical development, self- help/motor skills, mathematical thinking, and language/literacy development**
- ✓ **According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education**
- ✓ **100% of the CTK children were placed in their CTK Teacher's classroom**

Thank you to our partners!

Edgefield County Schools

Kaplan Early Learning Company

GLEAMNS Head Start

Wal Mart Foundation

Edgefield County First Steps

P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
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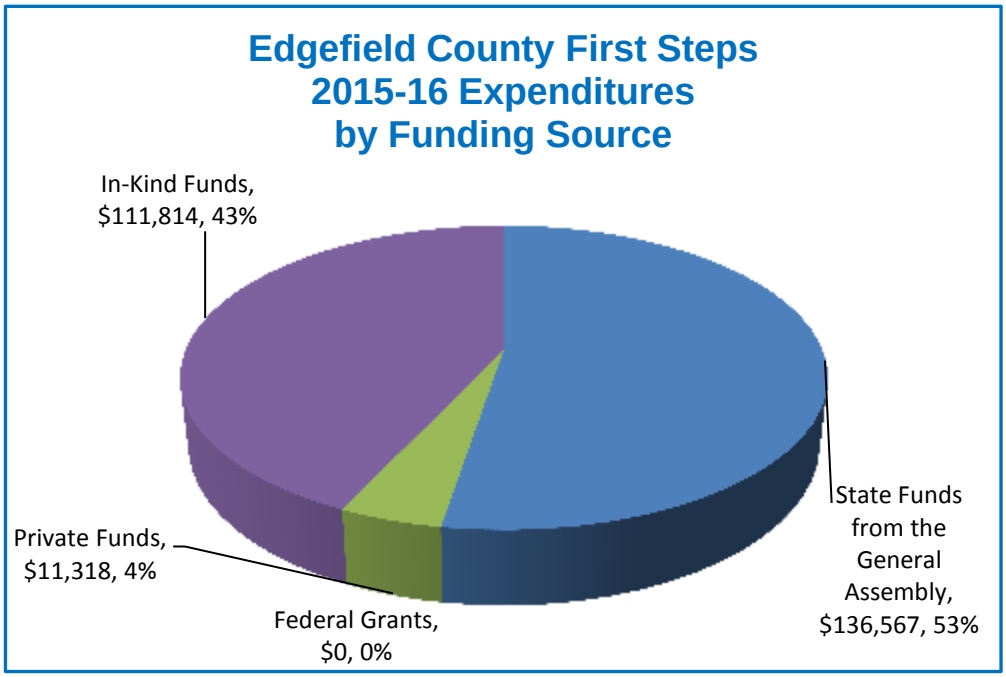
Financial Impact



Total 2015-16 Expenditures: $259,699

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 90%

***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
Family Literacy	$27,725	$0	$283	$60,173	**$88,181**	**34%**
Imagination Library	$0	$0	$3,503	$0	**$3,503**	**1%**
Countdown to Kindergarten	$2,238	$0	$0	$411	**$2,649**	**1%**
Nurse Family Partnership	$25,000	$0	$0	$6,371	**$31,371**	**12%**
Child Care Training	$10,264	$0	$2,924	$720	**$13,908**	**5%**
Child Care Scholarships	$36,470	$0	$1,164	$720	**$38,354**	**15%**
Program Support	$21,284	$0	$3,135	$42,879	**$67,298**	**26%**
Administrative Support	$13,586	$0	$309	$540	**$14,435**	**6%**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$136,567**	**$0**	**$11,318**	**$111,814**	**$259,699**	

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

Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged $1,596,146 from sources outside of state government. That's 62 cents for every state dollar.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY FIRST STEPS
Getting children ready for school.

Community Impact

I Finally "Did It"

A Family Literacy Success Story

My name is Tameshia Pressley, and I am a proud mother of three children and a graduate of the class of 2016. I finally "**Did It".** I attained my GED. It's been a long journey and a long time coming but every bit worthwhile.

As a young adult, there were many personal struggles and obstacles that tried to block me from obtaining my goals in life. As I became more mature after having my first child, I realized the value of having a high school diploma. The more I searched for job opportunities, the more I realized the value in having a good education. More doors were closed because I didn't finish high school.

After having my second child, I enrolled her in the local Head Start program. During the Head Start orientation, we received information about receiving our GED through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Program. Getting my GED was very important to me because it would open doors of opportunities for me as well as my family. I always knew I would go back to school to get my GED because I was determined and I wanted to set an example for my three children. I am very grateful for the Family Literacy program. It allowed me the opportunity to go back to school while providing childcare for my child. While receiving instructional support from the Adult Education teachers, my son received early childcare from the preschool teachers.

Thank you to the Edgefield County First Steps Program for making this program possible and available for families like me to accomplish their educational and career goal. I am very grateful for the teachers who have taken the time to help me get to where I need to be.

This is just the beginning - it doesn't stop here. I would encourage whoever is thinking about going back to school, go back because doors can open, I'm an example. While working towards my goal, I have learned I can do anything I set out to do. Through the hard times I kept the faith because knowing that there's a light at the end of the tunnel gave me the strength to persevere.

The Edgefield County School District and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Program staff support, encouragement, mentorship, motivation and love inspired me to never give up. At the age of 28, I can now pursue my dream of attending college. In the fall, I will begin classes at Piedmont Technical College's Edgefield campus. The Family Literacy Program not only makes you want to succeed in life as a young single parent, it also makes you have a goal of saying I can do all things.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: $138,000
(*through South Carolina First Steps*)

Center for Child Care Career Development: $2,000

Wal-Mart Community Grant: $1,500

In-Kind Support

Edgefield County School District

Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce

First Book

Carolina Health Centers, Inc.

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

First Steps Partnership Board

Edgefield County First Steps serves as the community convener around the needs of preschool children and their families

In April of 2016, Edgefield County First Steps hosted a community luncheon meeting to discuss early childhood needs and resources in Edgefield County. It was very well attended by staff members from the local school district, DSS, DHEC, BabyNet, Early Head Start, as well as health care providers, local child care providers, and First Steps Board members. This meeting provided the opportunity for networking and, in some cases, for individuals to meet face-to-face for the first time. It also began laying the foundation for the work that is to come. This group has agreed to meet at least twice yearly.

A second meeting of this group is scheduled for October 2016. The first goal will be to assist Edgefield County First Steps with updating its community needs and resources assessment by December 31, 2016. Upon completion of this assessment, this group will begin work on a countywide comprehensive early childhood education plan.

Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board, July 2015- June 2016

Name	Position	Board Category
Bridget Clark	CDEP/Read to Success Coordinator, Edgefield County Schools	County Library Appointee
Liz Posey	Retired	Faith Community
Gail Jackson	Retired	Faith Community
Jane Doolittle	Business Office Director, Edgefield County Hospital	Business Community
Moronda Talley	Director, Edgefield County Department of Social Services	County DSS Appointee
Amy Wilhelm	K-5 Teacher, Edgefield County Schools	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Jenny Mims	4K Teacher, Edgefield County Schools	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Donna Thompson	Early Head Start Case Manager	Early Childhood Development
Renee Williams	Family Literacy Coordinator	Family Education Provider
Cynthia Howard	Teacher, Saluda Head Start	Child Care Provider
Margaret Childress	Adult Education Teacher, Edgefield County Schools	School District Appointee
Lynda Yoder	Nurse, Edgefield County Hospital	Healthcare Provider
Blair Massey	Attorney,	Business Community
Heather Trotter	Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Peach Tree Medical Center	Healthcare Provider
Larry Bowe	Executive Director, Edgefield County Senior Citizens Council	Non-Profit Organization
Desiree' Council	Coordinator, Edgefield Guardian Ad Litem Program	Non-Profit Organization
Robin Miller	Administrative Team Leader	County DHEC Appointee

EDGEFIELD COUNTY FIRST STEPS

Getting children ready for school.

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

4K FIRST STEPS

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 Edgefield County:
864-225-6465

http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/