

McCORMICK COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Nurse Family Partnership

Early Education for
Children Under 4

Library Based Literacy

Other Family Literacy:
Reach Out and Read

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	McCormick County
Children Under Five	289,990	310
Children In Poverty	26.4%	41.0%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	16.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	12.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by  Children's Trust

- Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged \$2,178,291 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.83 for every dollar received.**
- **449 hours of support and guidance** were provided through home visits to 28 families in our Parents As Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership Programs.
- **2574 books were given** to children in our programs and in our community.
- Scholarships were provided to **12 children to allow parents to work or go to school**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 170**

McCormick County First Steps

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Phone: (864) 852-9018
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Board Chair

PAMELA TURMAN

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www.mccormickcountyfirststeps.com

McCormick County First Steps

Ruth Detrick
Executive Director

We collaborate with many groups in our community in order to provide services, at the least possible cost, to the children we serve.

Our partnership with McCormick School District allows us to provide Parents as Teacher services by sharing the cost of providing this program. The School District also shares the cost of our Early Education Program and allows us to provide early education for children under 4. Their support helps us to provide the ability to work or attend school for parents, and to offer the only child care center for pre-school children in our county.

Our Library Literacy program is staffed entirely by volunteers from the community. A representative from the public library provides story time. The local art's council provides art projects and lessons. A retired music teacher brings music, song and dance to our children. Another volunteer provides sign-language training as part of our Literacy program.

A local church has a group of women who read to the children in our child care center and also plan and host field trips and special art and music events to all the children we serve.

Without these strong partnerships we would not be able to serve as many children or to provide as many services as we do. We feel truly blessed by the wonderful community support we receive.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Child Care Scholarships
- Library Based Literacy
- Reach Out and Read
- Early Education for Children under 4

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.

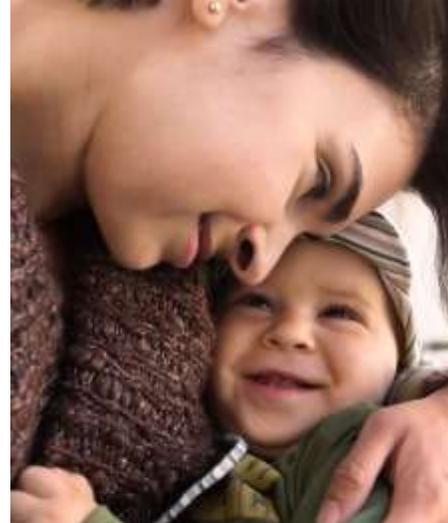
Based on the needs of our community, McCormick County First Steps focuses its investments in Healthy Start, Family Strengthening, Early Intervention, Early Education and Quality Child Care.

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

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



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

- 100% of families served are living in poverty
- 100% of families served have two or more risk factors

NFP by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	8
Number of Home Visits	76

- One mom, Shannon, said “I was scared when I found out that I was pregnant, but the nurse walked me through every step and answered all my questions. The nurse made me feel like I could handle anything. I knew that I was not by myself and that I had the support that I needed.”
- Another mom, Diona, said “I felt blessed to have an actual RN come into my home and educate me, so I could be the kind of mom I wanted to be. I thought my life was over when I became pregnant. My nurse changed my life, by helping me set goals and showing me that I could still do anything I wanted.”

This year, in our NFP program

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

Thank you to our partners!

Carolina Health Centers
Even Start Child Care Center

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Library Based Literacy

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

Program Description

To improve our children’s literacy skills, we provide story time twice each month. At each session each child receives a book to take home and keep. To further increase pre-reading skills, twice each month a music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes. In addition, art projects, sign language and special events are provided as part of this program.

Target Population

Approximately 60 children from the First Steps child care center and the Head Start classrooms are served in this program. All children have at least one board-approved risk factor

Service Delivery

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

Staffing and Qualifications

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

Assessment

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



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

Library Literacy by the Numbers 2015-16

Children Served	64
# of Stories	122
# of Songs	153
# of Activities	174
# of books given	729

Results:

- ✓ Listening improved from 3.1 for the 1st half of the year to 4.5 the second half of the year (on a scale of 1 – 5)
- ✓ Pre Reading Skills increased by 86%
- ✓ 71% of teachers rated this program as Very Valuable, and 100% rated it as Valuable or Very Valuable
- ✓ 100% of teachers said that the librarian did Well or Very Well at engaging children’s interest and introducing new words
- ✓ 100% of teachers agreed that this program was a benefit to their children

Thank you to our partners!

McCormick Public Library	Suzie Hartz
McCormick Arts Council	Jo Graziano
Lutheran Church by the Lake	First Book

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Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

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

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

- 100 % Live in Poverty
- 94.4% Single Parents in need of other services
- 16.7% Served by BabyNet
- Families in this program average 3.4 Risk Factors each



Each child in this program received a hat and scarf from the Lutheran Church by the Lake. Also each child received a bike at Christmas time thanks to fund raising by the Parent Educators.

Comments from Parents from the Satisfaction Survey:

- "I have learned about my child and what he needs and what to teach him"
- "My visitor is interested in me reaching the goals I have set for myself and my family."
- "This program taught me to read more and to teach my children to read books."

PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	20	
Children Served	20	
Total Home Visits	321	
Hours Spent Serving Families	373	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (baseline to current difference):	KIPS .64 increase	ACIRI Adult .72 Child 1.05 increase

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.84 home visits per family with an average duration of 1.16 hours per visit
- ✓ Identified and addressed 13 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices including families reading books together once or more a day, families with more books in the home and families who own library cards. Improved literacy skills including story recall, understanding directions, picture vocabulary, and oral comprehension. The changes were made through participation in the PAT Innovative Approach to Literacy grant.
- ✓ Made 14 connections for families to services such as scholarships, interventions and referrals

Thank you to our partners!

- McCormick School District
- Lutheran Church by the Lake
- Community Members who donated bikes or funds for bikes

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Reach Out and Read

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

Program Description

- We provide 75% of the funds to serve approximately 45 children in McCormick’s Reach Out and Read Program.
- At every well-child check-up, doctors and nurses encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and offer age-appropriate tips.
- Parents, who may have difficulty reading, will be encouraged to invent their own stories to go with picture books and to spend time naming objects with their children.
- At each well-child visit, providers will give every child, between the ages of six months and five years, a new, developmentally appropriate children’s book to keep.



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

Fidelity:

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

Reach Out and Read by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	42
Books Given to Children 0-5	92

This year, our Reach Out and Read Program:

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

Thank you to our partners!

Reach Out and Read—Carolinas
 McCormick Family Practice

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Child Care Scholarships

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

Program Description

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

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 16.7% ... were referred and treated by BabyNet
- 50% ... were single parents needing other services
- 25% ... exposed to caregiver's depression

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

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

One of our scholarship children, a little boy with severe speech delays, was screened then referred for speech therapy. We continually worked on his speech and vocabulary. He left our program this year with his speech problems solved. He is ready to succeed in kindergarten.



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

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	12
Providers Served	1

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 12 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 65 connections for families to services such as early education and literacy interventions and many referrals to needed services
- ✓ Supported 1 small business in McCormick County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 1.5 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as how to choose quality child care

Thank you to our partners!

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

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Early Education for Children Under 4

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

Program Description

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

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

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

Measurements

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

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

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

One of our children was also in the Nurse Family Partnership program and was receiving BabyNet services. He needed help with development and socialization skills. Working with these two other groups we now have a child who is on track and doing well.

Comments from Parents:

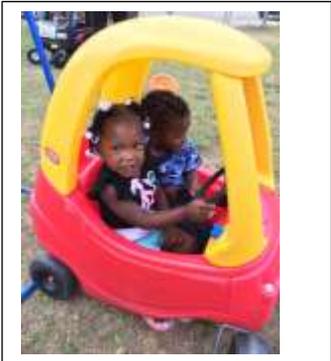
“Thanks so much for having this program. I would not be able to go to school without it.”

“I’m so glad for the scholarship. Now I can afford to bring my child to the child care center. He needs to be able to get along with other children, so he’ll be ready for school.”

Early Education by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	24
Providers Served	1

A Fun Day was held in the Child Care Center for the children to celebrate this year’s successes.



- This year, our Early Education program:**
- ✓ Made it possible for 24 children to attend quality preschool
 - ✓ 100% of children with developmental delays are receiving services
 - ✓ Center’s current DSS ABC Quality rating is 96%
 - ✓ Center’s current ITERS score of 5.86

Thank you to our partners!

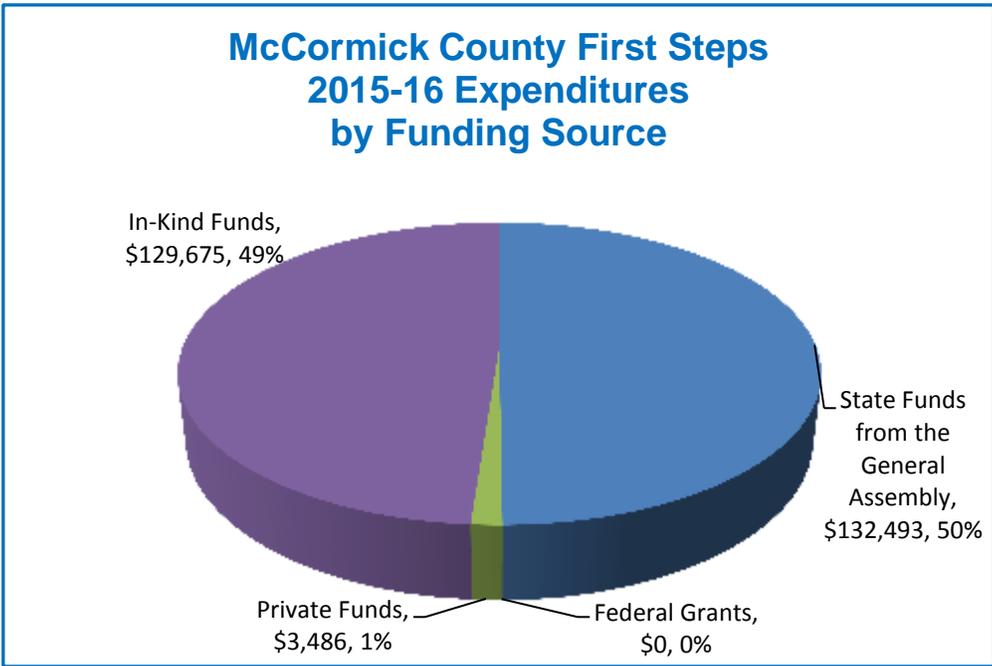
- McCormick County School District
- Women of the Lutheran Church by the Lake
- DSS-ABC Technical Assistance Support



Toddler Summer Camp provides socialization and an introduction to child care.

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Financial Impact



Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$265,654

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 101%

*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	\$20,127	\$0	\$898	\$50,747	\$71,772	27%
Other Literacy-Reach Out Read	\$1,696	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,696	1%
Library Based Literacy	\$11,027	\$0	\$1,186	\$249	\$12,462	5%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$14,501	\$0	\$384	\$6,372	\$21,257	8%
Early Education Children Under 4	\$55,693	\$0	\$0	\$72,308	\$128,001	48%
Child Care Scholarships	\$10,295	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,295	4%
Indirect Program Support	\$11,266	\$0	\$468	\$0	\$11,734	4%
Administrative Support	\$7,888	\$0	\$550	\$0	\$8,438	3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$132,493	\$0	\$3,486	\$129,676	\$265,655	

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

Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged \$2,178,291 from sources outside of state government. That's 83 cents for every state dollar.



Community Impact

Our Programs Are Making a Difference

Early Intervention Matters

We do health and developmental screenings with all of the children we serve. In our child care center we found a little boy with severe speech delays. We referred and connected him and his family for speech therapy and continually worked on his speech and vocabulary.

By the time he left our program, his speech problems were solved and he was ready to succeed in kindergarten. Without our program, he would have started school way behind the other children.



Some of the Happy, Healthy children we've served in our Child Care Center

Parent Educators Help Families Set and Meet Goals

One of our parent educators worked with a poor young mother who dropped out of high school when she had her baby. The parent educator helped her set realistic, attainable goals. This mother set a goal to finish school and to attend college.

That mother successfully finished high school and is now attending Piedmont Technical Community College.

Another mother set a goal to get her driver's license. She was able to meet that goal and now that she has transportation, she has become more self-sufficient. She has a job and is supporting her family. We are able to help her by caring for her child in our Child Care Center and by providing her with a child care scholarship.

New Mother Success

In one case our Nurse Family Partnership nurse worked with a mother to apply for Medicaid and to set a goal to stop smoking.

The nurse helped her get ready for her baby to be born. Safe sleep, breast feeding, preparation of her home were all discussed.

Her baby was born at 6 lbs. 3 oz. full term. Developmental screenings show the baby is right on target. Mother is reading and talking to her baby and has learned the value of developmental play.

Her current goal is to return to school.

Thank you to our Donors and Partners

Funding Support

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

Georgia State University: \$2,000

Lutheran Men in Mission: \$1,881

Good Shepard Catholic Church Men’s Club: \$1,000

Individual Donations from Board Members and Friends of
 First Steps: \$800

Lutheran Church by the Lake: \$362

Women of Good Shepard Catholic Church: \$100



Board Chair, Pamela Turman and child care provider Shirley Middleton receive donation from men’s club at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

In-Kind Support

McCormick School District

Carolina Health Centers

Thrivent Financial

First Book

Other Partners

McCormick Public Library

McCormick Art’s Council

Women of Lutheran Church by the Lake

McCormick Head Start

Fund Raising Support

Belk Charity Days

First Steps Board’s Silent Auction

Strong Collaborations help make a Strong Partnership

McCormick School District

McCormick County School District is a wonderful partner for McCormick County First Steps. They recognize the importance of early childhood education and the effect it has on later school success. They support both our parenting program and our child care center. Neither of these programs would be possible without their support. We work closely with each other to ensure that standards are being met in these programs. We support each other in community events and initiatives. The School District provides office space and utilities for the First Steps office in McCormick.

Lutheran Church by the Lake

The church, the men's club and the women's club all provide financial support to our partnership. In addition, a group of wonderful women at the Lutheran Church provide stories, activities, art projects, and field trips to the children in our child care center. They have provided musical events for all the children in our Literacy Program.

McCormick County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Pamela Turman, Chair	Supervisor of Parenting Program and Child Care Center	School District Appointee
Luella Crosby, Vice Chair	Retired from McCormick School District	Family Education, training and support provider
Brandi Bibbs	Teacher McCormick School District	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Paul Brown	Director McCormick Public Library	Library Appointee
Nadine Freeman	Coordinator John de la Howe School	Healthcare provider
Paulette Freeman	Retired John de la Howe School	Legislative Appointee
Wendy Gary	Employee DHEC	DHEC Appointee
Deborah Gunter	Child Care Provider Greenwood Early Head Start	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Daisy Johnson	Retired McCormick Head Start	Early Childhood Development
Christine Lee	Spirit and Life Church	Faith Community
Heather McNally	Program Director McCormick Arts Council	Non-Profit Organization provides services to families & children
Shirley Middleton	Child Care Provider Even Start Child Care Center	Childcare Provider
Sue Mitchell	Retired Educator	Family Education, training and support provider
Robbie Seigler	Director McCormick Department of Social Services	DSS Appointee
Mary Thompson	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Sandy Townsend	Member of Friends of the Library	Non-Profit Organization provides services to families & children
Bill West	State Farm Insurance Agent	Business Community

Getting children ready for school.

The Goals of First Steps

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



BabyNet

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in McCormick County:
(864) 225-6465

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