

NEWBERRY COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Library-Based Program

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Annual Report

2015-16



OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of NEWBERRY COUNTY.



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Newberry County
Children Under Five	289,990	2,214
Children In Poverty	26.4%	30.3%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	30.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	20.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust

- Since inception Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$1,025,697 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.36 for every dollar received.**
- Through our **intensive home visitation program for at-risk families**, we exposed as many as four generations to spending quality time together through family sessions/screening during FY16.
- We served over **565 children** in our library-based literacy program, giving **children over 4500 books.**
- Total training attendance for our quality child care training program was **over 500!**

Newberry County First Steps

P.O. Box 25
 540 Brantley St.
 Newberry, SC 29108

Phone: (803)321-1073
 Fax: (803)321-1067

Board Chair
 Elizabeth Bozard

Executive Director
 Patricia H. Caldwell
 pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us

www.newberryfirststeps.com

Newberry First Steps
Patricia H. Caldwell
 Executive Director

Newberry County First Steps targets children under the age of six. First Steps is an initiative designed to achieve results through partnerships at state and local levels, among public and private entities. County-level partnerships - with their unique ability to identify local needs, resources, and collaborative opportunities – are designed to efficiently focus program efforts and reach children where they live. Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$1,025,697 from sources outside of state government. That's 36 cents for every state dollar.

The Community

There has been a strong collaboration with the school district of Newberry, the library, child care centers, faith based other local non-profits, Newberry public housing, local government and other county partnerships to maximize our resources and ensure that all families know where to go to receive assistance for their families.

Each year our programs show evidence of improvement: nationally recognized program, Parent as Teachers, Library-based program (children's literacy), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) - where we have reached children throughout the county - and child care Quality Enhancement/Training. All centers have quality programs and one center has an "A+" rating. In addition, our new Early Head Start site serves 16 families and children 0-2 years old. The First Steps 4K program in our county serves 32 children.

Moving Forward

The Partnership will continue to work with our partners as we focus on making sure that all children are healthy and ready to experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement that sustains learning.



County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Library-Based Program
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- 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 Newberry County First Steps focuses its investments in FAMILY STRENGTHENING, EARLY EDUCATION, SCHOOL TRANSITION, AND QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Parents as Teachers

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

100% ... live in poverty
 ... had not earned high school diploma or
 100% GED...some were not literate in their native
 language
 75% ...served were teen parents



PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	28	
Children Served	32	
Total Home Visits	500	
Hours Spent Serving Families	471.0	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS/ACIRI .39	KIPS/ACIRI Detail Report .28

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.16 home visits per family per month
- ✓ Identified and addressed 10 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved literacy skills interactive book activities during home visits (760 books) and 340 book distributions during special events and Parent Café (parent/child group meetings)
- ✓ Made 13 connections for families to services such as Family Literacy, Food Banks, Housing Authority, Mental Health, and BabyNet

Thank you to our partners!

School District of Newberry County
 Newberry County DSS Newberry Hospital
 SC Teen Pregnancy Prevention
 Head Start Special Services

Newberry County First Steps
 P. O. Box 25, Newberry, SC 29108
 803-321-1073
pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us
www.newberryfirststeps.com

Library-Based Program

“Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.”
 Marilyn Jager Adams

Program Description

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

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

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

“Our daughter is always excited to receive a new book from school. She “reads” it to us before she asks us to read it to her. The new stories encourage her to go back and look at the old ones. Many, many thanks for encouraging children to love books.”
 Preschool Parent



Newberry County preschoolers enjoyed Porkchop Production’s, “Bremen Town Musicians” during the Week of the Young Child.

The Library-Based Program by the Numbers, 2015-2016

Children Served	565
Books Given to Children 0-5	4524

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month for 8 months to 565 children enrolled in public and private preschools in the county.
- ✓ Taught children how to care and handle books.
- ✓ Trained 60 teachers in storytelling techniques to use in their own reading times



Thank you to our partners!

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

Newberry County First Steps
 P. O. Box 25, Newberry, SC 29108
 803-321-1073
pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us
www.newberryfirststeps.com



Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2015-16

Child Care Providers Served	2
Number of TA Visits Provided	41
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	127

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2015-16!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Kids Unlimited, 2-yr-old room	ECERS 2.97 to ITERS 5.03
Newberry CDC, 2-yr-old room	ITERS 3.07 to ITERS 4.23

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality in most areas in the 2 classrooms working with First Steps on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 94 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ Provided \$2,090 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Centers in Newberry County
- Newberry County Library System
- ABC Child Care DSS DHEC
- USC/CCR&R Aiken County First Steps
- Richland County First Steps

Newberry County First Steps
 P. O. Box 25, Newberry, SC 29108
 803-321-1073
pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us
www.newberryfirststeps.com

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.

“These training services make for wonderful required training experiences and keeps us up to date with the latest information out there!”

Dawn Graham,
 Kids Unlimited of Prosperity, Inc.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Newberry First Steps, 2015-16

Topic:	Sessions:
Program Administration	Four Sessions
Cradling Literacy	Two Sessions
Art and Music	Two Sessions
Physical Activity and Nutrition	Two Sessions
Emotional Development of Young Children	One Sessions
Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session
Flip-It: Transforming Challenging Behavior	One Session
T.E.A.C.H.	One Session



Child Care Providers participating in a child care training session.

Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	484
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	94
Number of Training Sessions Offered	14

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 94 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 30.5 hours of certified training and 1 hour of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 41 TA visits with training participants from 2 centers to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

Center for Child Care Career Development
 NTUNE Trainer & Consultant USC/CCR&R DHEC
 ABC Child Care USC/Children’s Law Center
 Piedmont Technical College Newberry College
 Edgefield County First Steps Saluda County First Steps

Newberry County First Steps
 P. O. Box 25, Newberry, SC 29108
 803-321-1073
pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us
www.newberryfirststeps.com



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	27
Families Served	26
Home/School Visits	159

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



"My only complaint is that I wish the program could be more days per week and a longer span of time!" CTK Parent

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

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

Thank you to our partners!

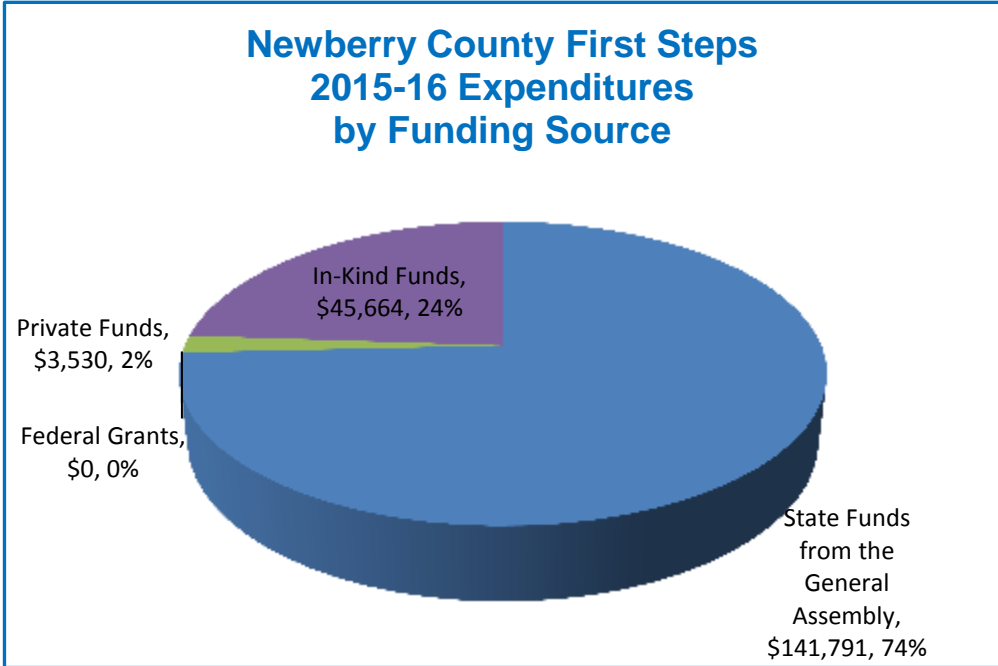
School District of Newberry County Sonic
Kaplan Early Learning Company Stokes-Trainor
EdVenture Children's Museum Midlands Gives
WACH Fox 57 WKDK Newberry Observer
St. Luke's Women's Group

Newberry County First Steps

P. O. Box 25, Newberry, SC 29108
803-321-1073

pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us
www.newberryfirststeps.com

Financial Impact



Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$190,984.59

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 34.7%

**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	\$32,923	\$0	\$0	\$23,000	\$55,923	29%
Library Based Program	\$29,678	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$29,678	16%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$9,734	\$0	\$14	\$12,995	\$22,743	12%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$27,004	\$0	\$2,016	\$4,867	\$33,887	18%
Child Care Training	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,500	\$675	\$3,175	2%
Other Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Program Support	\$27,904	\$0	\$0	\$3,095	\$30,999	16%
Administrative Support	\$13,548	\$0	\$0	\$1,032	\$14,580	8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$141,791	\$0	\$3,530	\$45,664	\$190,985	

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

Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$1,025,697 from sources outside of state government. That's 36 cents for every state dollar.

Community Outreach

Parents as Teachers Program

A family with a 49-month old child enrolled in our program and our Bright Beginnings Child Development Center. He had been born with congenital heart problems and had resulting surgeries. His mother was understandably very concerned and protective, but was more comfortable with his being in a small class. His pre-screening showed some deficiencies in communication, fine motor, problem solving, and social skills. The child progressively learned to follow the class routines, play with the other students, and participate in class activities. His mother was surprised at his gains in maturity and independence, and as a result became a full partner in his developmental and educational goals. She and his father become more active in the parenting group sessions. His mother was our guest speaker at our Spring Council meeting to share her families' journey with our program this year. His post-screenings showed improvements in all areas, but it was decided to have him evaluated by School District Special Services, in hopes of his qualifying for services over the summer. His mother plans to bring him back to our center for the 2016-17 school year, as well as participate in the 2016 summer activities.



PAT families enjoyed participating in the ten year celebration of Newberry County School District's Family Literacy Program.



Early Head Start Program

Mary Green, Director Newberry Child Development Center

We are enjoying having the Early Head Start Program at Newberry Child Development Center. It has not only benefited our facility through giving low income families a chance to have an early start on education, but also has enabled NDCD to help build Newberry's community brighter one child at a time. The program has allowed us to create lasting partnerships with parents and their children. The program also provides great resources for our parents and their families. We are privileged to have this program in our facility. Thank you!



Parents with children in the Early Head Start Program, enjoy a stir-fry at their parent meeting, "How to prepare a nutritious meal on a budget."

Children's Literacy

Library-Based Program

Newberry's "Library Lady", Mrs. Janie Eargle, is not a stranger to the preschool crowd in Newberry County. When a child runs up to her in a store, she always introduces herself to the parents, who are thrilled to meet the "Library Lady" that their children talk about. One parent commented, "The First Steps Library Outreach Program provides really great books for my child. The program encourages her to read more and makes her want to learn more and more. She pretends to read to her baby dolls by putting them in a group circle, and she "reads" to them. She wants me to read to her every time she receives a new book." Another parent said, "My child loves when the outreach librarian comes to read to her class. She brings home the book and we read it that same day! We have so many books from this program and we read them often." This program not only encourages the child to read, but it provides a special time for families to share reading together!



Newberry Housing Authority Margie Suber

It has given me great privilege to witness the children's enjoyment of reading books that were donated by Mrs. Pat Caldwell and the First Steps Program. These books were brought into our office at the Julian E Grant Homes (The Newberry Housing Authority) for the children to enjoy. It is a joy and pleasure to see parents reading to their children and to see children coming into the office just to pick up a book to read. The children loved the books so much that all the books disappeared from our office. That is great, because now they enjoy reading them at home! Newberry Housing values the partnership with Newberry County First Steps as we work together to meet the needs of our families.

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
- Midlands Gives: \$1047.50
- Stokes-Trainor: \$500
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church Women: \$100

In-Kind Support

- School District of Newberry County
- Department of Social Services
- DHEC, Newberry County
- USC Children's Law Center
- USC/CCR&R Newberry County Opera House
- Newberry County Library SCECA District 4
- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Newberry County Council

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

First Steps Partnership Board

Community Collaborates to Increase Public Awareness of First Steps' Work

Beth Bozard, Newberry County Board Chair

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

Investing in Our Children's Future

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

Newberry County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Elizabeth Bozard, Chair	Nurse, Lovelace Medical Clinic	Healthcare Provider
Clyde E. Hill, Vice Chair	Assistant Director, Triangle Child Care Center	Childcare & Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
Frances Wright, Secretary	Head Start Teacher, GLEAMNS	Legislative Appointee
Crystal Hayward, Treasurer	Lowe's Home Improvement of Newberry	Parent of Pre-School child
Kelly Bannister	SC DHEC	Social Agency Appointee
Alison Bowers	Teacher – Newberry County School District	Pre-K/Primary Educator
Beth Brooks	Director, Elementary Ed, Newberry County School Dist.	School District Appointee
Erica Gallman	Gleamns Headstart	Gleams Appointee
Lemont Glasgow	Newberry City Council	Local Government
Roberta Hall Kinard	Director, Adult Education, Newberry County School District	Family Ed., Trg., Support Provider
Kenneth McBride	Director, DSS	Social Agency Appointee
Virginia Riddle	Early Childhood Education, Newberry College	Childcare and Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
Rita Saddler	PAT Coordinator Newberry County School District	Family Ed. Trg., Support Provider
Rev. Johnny Mack Scurry	Minister	Faith Community
Mamie Shippy	Benedict College	Legislative Appointee
Martha Suber	Retired Assistant Principal	Legislative Appointee
Robert Summer	Owner, Summer Media	Business Community
Patricia Turner	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Reggie Wicker	Principal, Newberry Elementary School	Pre-K/Primary Educator
T. Sam Ziady	Director, Newberry County Library System	County Library Appointee

Getting children ready for school.

The Goals of First Steps

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

-- Section 59-152-30



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

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



BabyNet

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Newberry County:

Call (803) 734-0111

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