



**Nurse-Family Partnership**

**Family Literacy**

**Early Education**

**Countdown to Kindergarten**

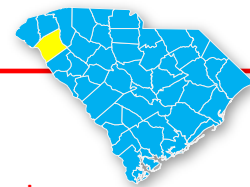
# Annual Report

2016-17



## OUR VISION:

**Every Anderson County child  
will arrive at kindergarten  
ready to succeed.**



## By The Numbers

| Indicator  | SC      | Anderson County |
|--|---------|-----------------|
| Children Under Five                                    | 291,026 | 11,627          |
| Children In Poverty                                    | 24.4%   | 25.1%           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading      | 22.2%   | 13.7%           |
| Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma | 15.0%   | 17.8%           |

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- ✓ # of children served: 263
- ✓ # of adults served: 262
- ✓ Clients earned 6 GEDs and 12 High School Diplomas; 12 were promoted to the next grade level
- ✓ 274 additional families referred for other community services
- ✓ Number of Books distributed: 1017
- ✓ 12,980 pieces of educational materials (ex. Child Find brochures, Family Literacy handouts, Book Buddy Bags) distributed through 60 Community Education and Outreach Events/Activities conducted.
- ✓ Since inception, Anderson County First Steps has leveraged \$4,650,576 from sources outside state government. That's \$.53 for every dollar received.

### Anderson County First Steps

605 N. Main St.  
 Anderson SC 29622

Phone: 864 222-0410  
 Fax: 864 222-9688

**Board Chair**  
 Jackie Blakley

1stepsac@bellsouth.net



## Message from the Executive Director:

Anderson County First Steps Partnership is proud of the following milestones it has achieved during the past sixteen years and its “value-add” to the Anderson community. Our mission could not have been accomplished without the passion, dedication, and support of our community partners:

- ✚ The Anderson County First Steps Partnership has distributed **\$9,739,037** to area providers to support parent and family strengthening programs and services, school transition, 4-K classes for at-risk children; and to improve learning environments through the child care quality enhancement and training programs.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership has increased the quality of services available to children and families, using research and data to improve programs and target the most at-risk children and their families.

- ✚ In Anderson County, since 2007-2008, **97 adults** have received GEDs and **115 teenage mothers** have stayed in school and received their high school diplomas through Family Literacy programs; **801 additional children** have had access to four-year-old kindergarten; **282 children and their families** have received services through the Countdown to Kindergarten program; **19 child care facilities** have improved their learning environments; and **628 families and 457 babies** have received **9,290 home visits** in collaboration with the Anderson County Nurse-Family Partnership.

As a local portal for quality early education and child development services:

- ✚ **12,980 pieces of educational materials (ex. Child Find brochures, Family Literacy handouts, Book Buddy Bags) were distributed through 60 Community Education and Outreach Events/Activities held throughout Anderson County.**

Anderson County First Steps Partnership collaborates with community partners to leverage funds that will benefit Anderson County families.

- ✚ During the past 16 years, **\$4,650,576** has been leveraged to provide additional early education services for the most at-risk children and their families. We have strong partnerships with our local funders and service providers including Anderson School Districts One, Two, Three, Four, and Five who have provided **\$106,345** annually in matching funds for Family Literacy service; the United Way of Anderson County for Countdown to Kindergarten; The Duke Endowment and The Stevenson Trusts for Nurse-Family Partnership; and Peoples Bank of Iva provides office space and administrative services.

**Paige Wall, Executive Director**  
**Anderson County First Steps Partnership**

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 Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.



## Early Intervention

Children's school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention 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 are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Anderson County First Steps focuses its investments in **Healthy Start**, **Family Strengthening**, **Early Education**, and **School Transition**.

**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 Anderson County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. Anderson County NFP home visitors provide health and childcare education and guidance to low-income mothers in their homes beginning in early pregnancy and through the child's second birthday. Full participation takes approximately 2 1/2 years to complete. **Four primary risk factors that negatively impact school readiness are: poverty, low maternal education, teen parentage, and low birth weight.**



## NFP by the Numbers, 2016-17

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Children Served       | 126   |
| Number of Home Visits | 2,478 |

*“Thank you for all you have done for me & my son. You are a wonderful person and I’m lucky we got you as our nurse...so many thanks!” (Client Survey)*

*“Thank you so much for everything you’ve done for my family. Because of you, I was able to get through my pregnancy with confidence and you’ve given us so much knowledge to better care for our son...” (Client survey)*

### The Anderson County NFP program has achieved the following outcomes:

- ✓ Provided services for 126 children and 168 parents during FY17; to date, ACNFP has served 525 families with a total of 389 babies born; only 34 of the 389 babies born have been low birthweight and 4 babies have been born at very low birthweight.
- ✓ Graduation rate is approximately 65%, meaning that 142 mothers have completed the entire 2 ½ year program. Of those who graduated from NFP, 77% graduated from high school or completed GED programs; Workforce participation for our clients that are 18 and older at the time of graduation (when their child turns 2) is 76.9%, an increase of 15.4% over the last year. Of the clients that are 17 and younger, 48% are working at 12 months and greater than 51% are working at 24 months.
- ✓ Ensured that 100% of all children have completed their immunization schedule by the age of 12 months and 96.2% by 24 months.

### Thank you to our partners!

The Duke Endowment  
The Children’s Trust of South Carolina  
S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Upstate Region  
Stevenson Charitable Trusts

Anderson County First Steps  
605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)





# Family Literacy – Anderson School District One

**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



The Anderson School District One family literacy program:

- (a) increases parent knowledge of child development;
- (b) increases literacy skills in parents; and
- (c) promotes school readiness.

***“I have a better understanding of the important role I play in my child’s success in school because of this Family Literacy program.”*** Satisfaction Survey

**Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among Anderson School District One family literacy program families:**

80% ... live in poverty  
 50% ... were teen mothers  
 100% ... enrolled in our program with less than a high school education

## Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Adults Served  | 10                      |
| Children Served  | 10                      |
| Adult Education Hours Offered                          | 792                     |
| Early Childhood Education Hours Offered                | 1,260                   |
| Parenting Education Hours Offered                      | 197                     |
| Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED | 3 GEDs, 4 H.S. Diplomas |

## This year, our Family Literacy program achieved the following outcomes:

- ✓ 4 clients received H.S. diplomas; 3 clients received GEDs;
- ✓ 100% children that received both pre/post Ages and Stages assessments made gains and were on-track developmentally;
- ✓ 80% parents that received both pre/post assessments made gains in at least one area of Parent Educational Profile;
- ✓ 100% Parents that were surveyed agree or strongly agree that they have a *better understanding of ways to help their children learn* because of the training and services they received through this First Steps program.

### Thank you to our partners!

- Anderson School District One
- Anderson County Districts 1 and 2 Adult Ed
- AnMed Health
- Small Wonders Child Care Center

Anderson County First Steps  
 605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
 864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)  
[www.1stepsac.org](http://www.1stepsac.org)

# Family Literacy – Anderson School District Two

**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



*“This program helped me with ideas and things I could do as a young parent”.*  
**Satisfaction Survey**

The Anderson School District Two literacy program:

- ✓ Helps parents of young children increase their education levels;
- ✓ Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development through Interactive Literacy activities; and,
- ✓ Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education or high school.

**Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among Anderson School District Two family literacy program families:**

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 75% ... were teen mothers
- 100% ... enrolled in our program with less than a high school education

## Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Adults Served  | 8                      |
| Children Served  | 7                      |
| Adult Education Hours Offered                          | 864                    |
| Early Childhood Education Hours Offered                | 1,170                  |
| Parenting Education Hours Offered                      | 147                    |
| Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED | 1 GED, 3 H.S. Diplomas |

## This year, our Family Literacy program achieved the following outcomes:

- ✓ 3 clients received high school diplomas; 1 client received a GED; 2 clients promoted to the next grade level.
- ✓ 100% of children made gains on Ages and Stages assessment; 100% on track.
- ✓ 100% of parents tested made gains in both Parent Education Profile scales.
- ✓ 100% of families had 2 or more risk factors
- ✓ 100% Parents agree or strongly agree that they have a *better understanding of ways to help their children learn* because of the training and services they received through this First Steps program.

### Thank you to our partners!

- Anderson School District Two
- Honea Path Middle School
- Belton Honea Path High School
- Anderson County Districts 1 and 2 Adult Ed
- Anderson County Library
- SHARE Head Start

**Anderson County First Steps**  
 605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
 864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)  
[www.1stepsac.org](http://www.1stepsac.org)

# Family Literacy – Anderson School District Three

**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

The Anderson School District Three family literacy program which is located at the Family Learning Center at Starr Elementary school:

- ✓ Helps parents of young children increase their education levels
- ✓ Teaches parents how to support their child’s literacy and overall development through parent education classes and Interactive Literacy sessions
- ✓ Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education or high school

**Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among Anderson School District Three family literacy program families:**

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 90% ... were teen mothers
- 100% ... enrolled in our program with less than a high school education



**“100% of our parents strongly agree that they spend more time talking and reading with their child because of this program.”** Satisfaction Surveys

### Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Adults Served  | 10              |
| Children Served  | 11              |
| Adult Education Hours Offered                          | 540             |
| Early Childhood Education Hours Offered                | 1,260           |
| Parenting Education Hours Offered                      | 231             |
| Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED | 2 H.S. Diplomas |

**This year, our Family Literacy program achieved the following outcomes:**

- ✓ 2 clients received high school diplomas; 2 clients promoted to next grade level.
- ✓ 100% GED participants increased scores on the post-TABE test.
- ✓ 100% Children assessed using the Ages and Stages are on-track.
- ✓ 100% Families assessed with the Parent Education Profile showed gain in all scale areas.
- ✓ 100% Parents agree or strongly agree that they have a *better understanding of ways to help their children learn* because of the training and services they received through this First Steps program.

**Thank you to our partners!**

- Anderson School District Three
- Anderson County Adult Education
- SHARE Head Start
- Anderson County Library System

**Anderson County First Steps**  
 605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
 864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)  
[www.1stepsac.org](http://www.1stepsac.org)

# Family Literacy – Anderson School District Four

**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



The goals of Anderson School District Four family literacy program which is located at the Family Learning Center are to:

- ✓ increase parent knowledge of child development;
- ✓ empower parents to provide children with a nurturing environment;
- ✓ increase literacy skills in parents;
- ✓ encourage job acquisition or job advancement; and
- ✓ promote school readiness.

***“This is an absolutely amazing program. I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with such fabulous people.”*** Satisfaction Survey

**Anderson First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among Anderson School District Four family literacy program families:**

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 30% ... were teen mothers
- 100% ... enrolled in our program with less than a high school education

## Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Adults Served  | 11                     |
| Children Served  | 11                     |
| Adult Education Hours Offered                          | 432                    |
| Early Childhood Education Hours Offered                | 612                    |
| Parenting Education Hours Offered                      | 271                    |
| Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED | 3 GEDs, 1 H.S. Diploma |

## This year, our Family Literacy program achieved the following outcomes:

- ✓ 1 clients earned their high school diplomas; 3 clients earned GEDs;
- ✓ 100% of parents with pre/post on the Parent Education Profile improved in at least one scale;
- ✓ 100% of children with Ages and Stages pre/post scores increased their scores in at least one area;
- ✓ 4 parents maintained employment while in the program; 1 parent found employment with a realtor after passing her GED.
- ✓ 100% Parents agree or strongly agree that they have a *better understanding of ways to help their children learn* because of the training and services they received through this First Steps program.

## Thank you to our partners!

Anderson School District Four  
 Anderson County Adult Education  
 Anderson County Library System  
 Clemson University Extension

Anderson County First Steps  
 605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
 864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)  
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**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

The Anderson School District Five Family Literacy program, which is located at South Fant School of Early Education:

- ✓ Helps teen parents of young children increase their education levels;
- ✓ Teaches parents how to support their child's literacy and overall development through parent education classes and Interactive Literacy sessions; and
- ✓ Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend high school.

**Anderson County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among Anderson School District Five family literacy program families:**

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... were teen mothers
- 100% ... enrolled in our program with less than a high school education



*Because of this Family Literacy program: "My child was in a safe and clean place. The home visitor made me relax. This program helped me put books in my home."* Satisfaction Survey

## Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Adults Served  | 8               |
| Children Served  | 10              |
| Adult Education Hours Offered                          | 1080            |
| Early Childhood Education Hours Offered                | 1,476           |
| Parenting Education Hours Offered                      | 90              |
| Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED | 2 H.S. Diplomas |

## This year, our Family Literacy program achieved the following outcomes:

- ✓ 2 clients received high school diplomas; 4 are enrolled in GED classes; 1 client moved to the next grade level.
- ✓ 100% of children showed developmental progress based on the Ages and Stages pre/post assessments and 100% are on-track.
- ✓ 100% of parents showed improvement on at least one scale based on Parent Education Profile assessment.
- ✓ 100% Parents agree or strongly agree that they have a *better understanding of ways to help their children learn* because of the training and services they received through this First Steps program.

## Thank you to our partners!

Anderson School District Five  
Anderson County Library System  
Golden Harvest Food Bank  
AnMed Health System

Anderson County First Steps  
605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)  
[www.1stepsac.org](http://www.1stepsac.org)

# Early Education – Anderson School District One

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

## Program Description

Anderson School District One provides high quality early education programs serving an additional 40 at-risk 4K students in two half-day classes which are located at Spearman Elementary School. This program adheres to all SC Department of Education guidelines, serves the most at-risk, and follows best practices including the implementation of High Scope, Creative Curriculum, and Early Childhood Education Rating Scale.

Each student must be four-years-old on or before September 1, 2016; and eligible for free- or reduced-price school lunches; and/or eligible for Medicaid; and/or qualify for services under IDEA Part B as the result of a documented disability or developmental delay.

### Desired outcomes of the program:

- Increased number of at-risk children served in the district;
- Increased school readiness by preparing at-risk 4 year-old kindergarten students to enter 5K classes and succeed; and
- Increased understanding by parents of the academic needs of their children.

*According to 4-K data and evaluation reports by this classroom’s teachers: “86 parents assisted with field trips and 86 parents attended school workshops and conferences to ensure that their children are successful in school.”*



## Early Education by the Numbers, 2016-17

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Children Served  | 40 |
| Providers Served | 1  |

## This year, our Early Education program achieved the following outcomes:

- ✓ Provided quality early education for 40 children at Spearman Elementary.
- ✓ 100% of the children passed to next grade.
- ✓ 100% of the children are reading on grade level.
- ✓ 246 books were given to children and 221 books were lent.
- ✓ 69 parents volunteered in the classroom – 8 of them read to the children.

## Thank you to our partners!

Anderson County School District One  
 Spearman Elementary School

Anderson County First Steps  
 605 N. Main Street, Anderson SC 29621  
 864 222-0410  
[1stepsac@bellsouth.net](mailto:1stepsac@bellsouth.net)  
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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.

Risk Factors:

83%...live in poverty  
32%...parent with low maternal education  
21%...recommended for social/emotional/behavioral difficulty services

## \*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Children Served    | 48  |
| Families Served    | 47  |
| Home/School Visits | 287 |

*\*CTK program data is for June-August 2016, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.*



**CTK families visit 5-K classrooms and schools at the end of the summer program to prepare for the new school year.**

## This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Conducted 287 Home and School Visits.
- ✓ Served 47 families with 142 First Steps client risk factors; family average: 3.02.
- ✓ Served 48 children with 22 Countdown to Kindergarten risk factors; child average: .47.
- ✓ Connected 85% of the children and their families with their children assigned to their Kindergarten.

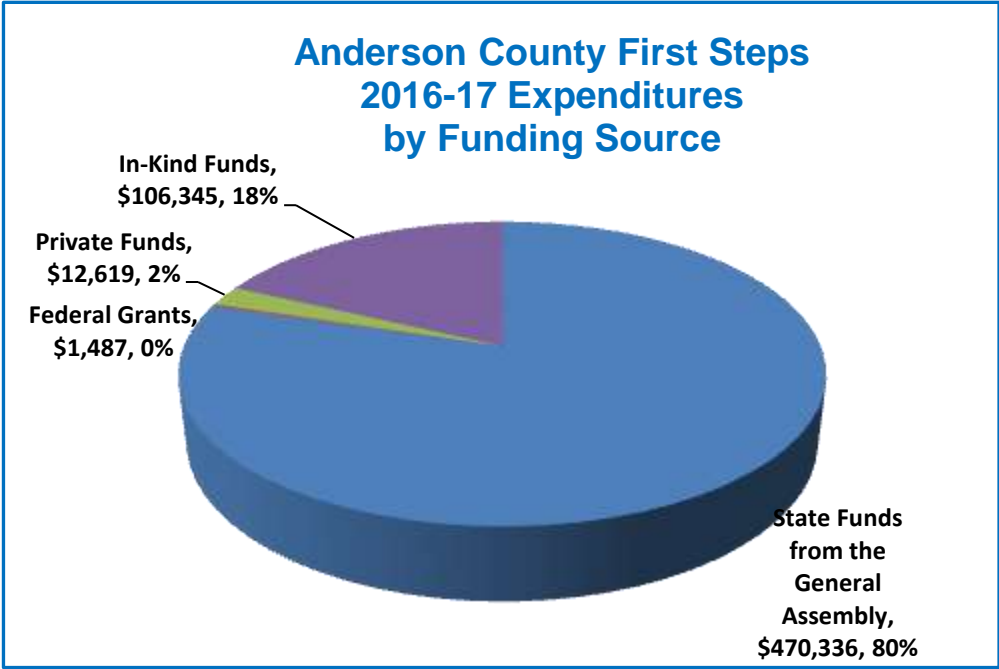
**Thank you to our partners!**

**United Way of Anderson County**  
SC Office of First Steps  
Anderson School Districts One, Two, Three, Four, Five  
Kaplan

Like us on Facebook!  
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina:

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$590,786**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17\*: 53%**

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

## 2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

|                           | State \$         | Federal \$     | Private \$      | In-Kind \$       | Total \$         | % of 2016-17 Expenditures |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Family Literacy           | \$299,053        | \$0            | \$0             | \$102,166        | \$401,219        | 68%                       |
| Half-Day 4-K              | \$59,277         | \$0            | \$0             | \$0              | \$59,277         | 10%                       |
| Countdown to Kindergarten | \$33,694         | \$0            | \$7,368         | \$4,107          | \$45,169         | 8%                        |
| Nurse-Family Partnership  | \$0              | \$0            | \$4,894         | \$0              | \$4,894          | 1%                        |
| Head Start Programming    | \$0              | \$1,487        | \$0             | \$0              | \$1,487          | 0%                        |
| Program Support           | \$48,492         | \$0            | \$0             | \$72             | \$48,564         | 8%                        |
| Administrative Support    | \$29,819         | \$0            | \$357           | \$0              | \$30,176         | 5%                        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>\$470,335</b> | <b>\$1,487</b> | <b>\$12,619</b> | <b>\$106,345</b> | <b>\$590,786</b> |                           |

*Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017*

**Since inception, Anderson County First Steps has leveraged \$4,650,576 from sources outside of state government. That's 53 cents for every state dollar.**



# Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Anderson County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

## Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$459,900  
(through South Carolina First Steps)

United Way of Anderson County: \$7,360  
for Countdown to Kindergarten

Stevenson Charitable Trusts: \$5,000  
for Nurse-Family Partnership

State of South Carolina: \$3,272  
for Countdown to Kindergarten  
(through South Carolina First Steps)

State of South Carolina: \$3,000  
for Early Head Start and Local Partners  
Meetings  
(through South Carolina First Steps)

## In-Kind Support

Anderson School District One: \$36,710

Anderson School District Two: \$10,916

Anderson School District Three: \$24,936

Anderson School District Four: \$12,445



**HOW TO GIVE: Mail contributions to Anderson County First Steps Partnership,  
P.O. Box 41, Anderson SC 29622**

**Or make a contribution to South Carolina First Steps through Tax Write-off when  
preparing your tax returns.**

## Save the Date!

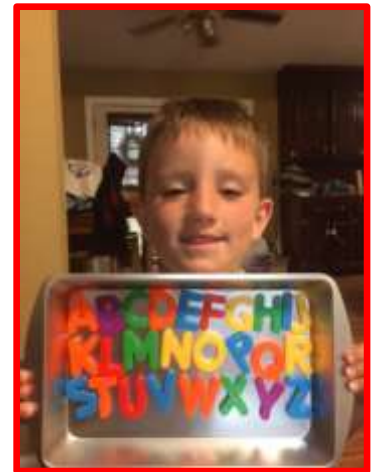
*You are invited to attend  
Anderson County First Steps Annual Meeting  
October 17, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.  
Anderson County Library  
300 N. McDuffie Street  
Anderson, SC*

**Support Anderson County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!**

## Anderson School District One Success Stories (Family Literacy and 4-K):

This past year, 5 adult ed and 5 teen mothers were served in the Family Literacy program. One particular high school student, M, began the Family Literacy program last year when she was still pregnant. During her time with me, I have watched her grow from a child who felt abandoned, alone, and frightened to a woman who is confident, independent, and strong. She was able to connect to resources such as Nurse-Family Partnership where she was able to learn more about her pregnancy and the development of her child. She was also able to connect with the school district's Homeless Liaison who helped her with school material, medical expenses, and various baby items. With the help of her family, M was able to finish high school and earn her diploma. She and her boyfriend recently moved into their first three-bedroom home where they are experiencing the joy of creating their own family. In time, she would like to attend a technical school and possibly become a teacher. Watching her transition was an amazing experience and I know that without this program she may not have had the same success.

My name is Suzanne Tripp and I teach 4-K sessions at Spearman Elementary. In reflecting over the past year, there is one child who really stands out as benefitting so much from our program. At the time this child was screened with the DIAL-4 assessment last May, he was already four. He had not been in any type of social environment with other children his age. This child exhibited a severe speech and language delay in that he only babbled. He had a total score in the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile on the DIAL-4. In the first few weeks of school, he was extremely defiant and had to have constant one-on-one supervision. He could not interact with the other children at all. We began talking to the district psychologist about possible placement in a special needs classroom. As time went on, however, he started positively interacting with both teachers and other students. He learned how to function appropriately in our classroom, following rules, transitioning between centers and large group time. He became a very pleasant child to be around. By the end of the year, this child made tremendous gains in all areas socially and emotionally. He is able to recognize all of the uppercase and lowercase letters, rote count to 20, and count 10 objects using one-to-one correspondence. He can write his name and copy letters and numerals. This child has truly benefitted from our 4-K program and would not have made such tremendous progress without it.

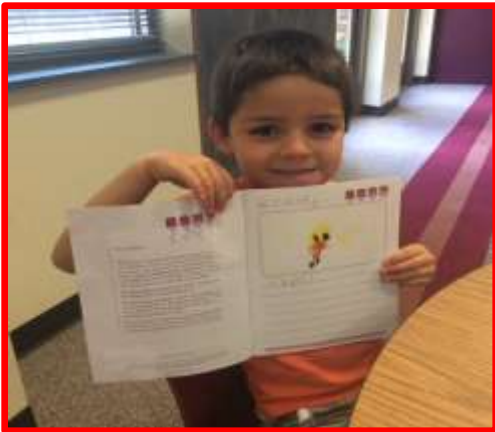


## Anderson School District Two Success Story:

K is an Adult Ed participant with 1 child. Her four-year-old, A, was in our 4K program in Honea Path this year. K was a very active parent in her child's education and knows how important it is to be involved. She attends school functions and keeps in contact with her children's teachers to keep up with their progress. She would also volunteer and go on field trips with her child. K reads to her child daily and is aware of its importance. She was an eager student at Adult Ed and got her GED pretty quickly. She was a pleasure to work with and attended meetings regularly.

## Anderson School District Three Success Story:

Client A came to us from a foster care situation that led her to drop out of high school in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. After many years in foster care, client A was returned to her biological family during her 11<sup>th</sup> grade school year. The changing of school and the changing of environments without the encouragement to continue her education client A dropped out of high school. When client A enrolled her child in the school district's four-year-old kindergarten program and she learned about the Family Literacy program, she decided to enroll in the GED classes. In seven months, this client passed 3 of the 4 parts of the GED exam. She plans to continue her classes in August. Client A's child also benefitted from the program by receiving extra help outside the classroom. The child has also been referred for the Countdown to Kindergarten Program to prevent the child from losing ground over the summer.



## Anderson School District Four Success Story:

A has a daughter who was born in November and is a student in our infant/ toddler room. After noticing some delays in the baby's growth based on the ASQ, we contacted A's NFP nurse. She had made some of the same observations and began the process of referral to BabyNet with A's permission. Now, in addition to the regular NFP nurse visits, the mom and baby are also meeting with an early interventionist on site. The early interventionist is in the process of setting up summer visits with A and the baby as well. A recently passed her GED Math practice test and will be scheduling

her GED test when she comes back in the fall. She has met her goals of making a gain on the TABE test and adding more books to her daughter's library.

## Anderson School District Five Success Story:

We are thrilled for all of our teen parents completing their high school education, but this particular young lady was able to succeed being the mother of two young children. This would be a difficult task for anyone. Fortunately, she has a great family support system. She lives with her mother and has grandparents who are willing to lend a helping hand when needed. It is a fact that the grandparents were needed often. This teen even tried to make time for a part-time job. She was able to work around her mother's work schedule.

We are encouraging her to continue her education and we believe she will. The children are developing beautifully. Hopefully, she will be able to secure quality child care while preparing to become financially able to provide for her children.

# First Steps Partnership Board

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Position</b>                    | <b>Board Category</b>        |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sherry Adger       | Kiddie University                  | Pre-K – Primary Educator     |
| Mari Birchmore     | DHEC                               | DHEC                         |
| Elaine Blango      | Kids Stuff                         | Child Care/Early CH Dev/Edu. |
| Jackie Blakley     | Tri-County Tech                    | Business Community           |
| Marla Cobb         | Anderson Interfaith Ministry (AIM) | Philanthropic                |
| Nakia Davis        | Peoples Bank of Iva                | Philanthropic Community      |
| Nann Davis         | Anderson School Dist. 5            | Family Education/Training    |
| Nikita Harrison    | DSS                                | DSS                          |
| Brenda Kelley      | Anderson School Dist. 5            | Anderson School Dist. 5      |
| Faith Line         | Anderson Co. Library               | Library                      |
| Meredith McClure   | Tri-County Tech                    | Pre-K - Primary Educator     |
| Debra Madden       | Anderson School Dist. 3            | Anderson School Dist. 3      |
| Dawn Marcie        | Former Owner Childcare             | Childcare/Early Ed.          |
| Sanquinita Martin  | The Parenting Place                | Parent of Preschool Children |
| Cassandra Skelton  | Parent                             | Parent                       |
| Angie Starks       | SHARE Head Start                   | Head Start                   |
| Allison Strickland | Anderson School Dist. 2            | Anderson School Dist. 2      |
| Tim Taylor         | Town of Iva                        | Local Government             |
| Tammy Vaughn       | Anderson School Dist. 3            | Anderson School Dist. 3      |
| Charity Walker     | Anderson School Dist. 4            | Anderson School Dist. 4      |
| Morton White       | Pendleton Presby. Church           | Faith Community              |
| Pegie White        | BabyNet                            | Faith Community              |
| Liz Wittebort      | Anderson School District 1         | Anderson School District 1   |
| <b>Staff:</b>      |                                    |                              |
| Paige Wall         | Executive Director                 |                              |
| Deborah Sanders    | Program Coordinator/Evaluator      |                              |





# 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 with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

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



### EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

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



[I CAN] is First Steps' public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state's Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

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