

EDGEFIELD COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Triple P

Family Literacy

Imagination Library

Nurse Family Partnership

Countdown to Kindergarten

**Child Care Quality
Enhancement**

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

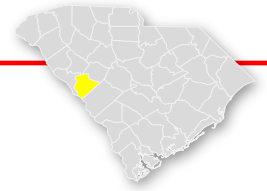
Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

| Indicator | SC | Edgefield County |
|--|---------|------------------|
| Children Under Five | 293,134 | 1,125 |
| Children In Poverty | 24.4% | 27.1% |
| 3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading | 22.2% | 22.4% |
| Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma | 15.0% | 19.0% |

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged \$1,688,842 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.61 for every dollar received.**
- **215 home visits** provided to **34 families** in our Family Literacy and Nurse Family Partnership Programs.
- **Childcare professionals received 30 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices. An additional **51.5 hours of certified training** was provided.
- Improved parenting practices through **15 Positive Parenting Program workshops.**
- Gave **5,061 books** to children.
- Provided **30 child care scholarhips**

Edgefield County First Steps

Office Location: 416 Calhoun Street, Johnston, SC 29832

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824

Phone: 803-275-0800

Email: edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net

Board Chair
Liz Posey

www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com

Edgefield County First Steps
Candi Lalonde
 Executive Director

One of my favorite children's books is The Little Engine That Could. In this book, we see the little blue engine do more than she thought she ever could. With the faith of the toys and dolls who believed in her and her willingness to try what she had never done, she worked hard and made it over the mountain.

Edgefield County First Steps is very much like the little blue engine. We certainly are not the biggest entity working for young children; we haven't been around the longest; and we are often asked to do things we have never done. However, we continue to get support from legislators, agencies, grant funders, businesses, groups, and individuals who believe that we can accomplish wonderful things for young children and their families.

It is because of the confidence in our staff and the widespread support of our programs that Edgefield County First Steps had one of its most successful years since our inception 16 years ago. Our first increase in funding in more than a decade allowed us to strengthen partnerships, extend our reach throughout the county, and ultimately serve more families.

We will continue working hard to provide quality services for Edgefield's youngest citizens and their families, all the while smiling and thinking, "I thought I could".



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition



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, Edgefield County First Steps focuses its investments in healthy start, family strengthening, quality childcare, and school transition strategy areas.

Nurse-Family Partnership

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

Program Description

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



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

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 13% ... did not graduate from high school
- 20% ... were teen mothers

NFP by the Numbers, 2016-2017

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Children Served | 17 |
| Number of Home Visits | 139 |

"I can learn anything I need or want to know for the health and safety for me and my baby".
 NFP client quote

- This year, our NFP program:**
- ✓ 87% of babies were born at a healthy birth weight
 - ✓ 100% of babies have received age appropriate immunizations
 - ✓ 100% of babies have had age appropriate developmental screenings and no delays were found
 - ✓ 100% of mothers had a medical home
 - ✓ 6 mothers graduated upon their child's 2nd birthday

Thank you to our partners!

- Carolina Health Centers, Inc.
- Edgefield County Health Department
- McCormick County First Steps

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com



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

Program Description

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program - is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 35 years of ongoing research. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage their children’s behavior, and prevent problems developing.

I loved learning new techniques to parenting. I hope I can continue to remember everything I’ve learned these last few weeks.

M.C.
Triple P participant

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

- 85% ... live in poverty
- 15% ... didn’t graduate from high school
- 10% ... were teen parents



Triple P by the Numbers 2016-2017

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Families Served | 20 |
| Children Served | 21 |
| Total Workshops | 15 |
| Total Workshop Hours | 30 |
| Total Workshop Attendance | 76 |

This year, our Triple P program:

- ✓ Offered 3 separate workshop series
- ✓ Served families referred from Edgefield County Department of Social Services along with Edgefield County First Steps Child Care Scholarship families
- ✓ Improved parenting practices as evidenced by an increase in average scores from 65.86 to 72.83 on the Parenting Tasks Checklist (from pre-test to post-test)

Thank you to our partners!

- Triple P – Positive Parenting Program
- Edgefield County Department of Social Services

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com

Family Literacy



Parents are their child’s first and best teachers.

Program Description

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

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

Our family literacy program:

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



There are so many fun things to do with children that are free.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... didn’t graduate high school
- 35% ... were teen parents

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-2017

| | |
|--|-----|
| Adults Served | 17 |
| Children Served | 29 |
| Adult Education Hours Offered | 405 |
| Early Childhood Education Hours Offered | 528 |
| Parenting Education Hours Offered | 123 |
| Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED | 5 |

The early childhood classroom located on site at the Family Literacy Center had a 5.32 average score on the ITERS-R.

This year, in our Family Literacy program:

- ✓ 100% of adults who were post tested made grade level gains
- ✓ 100% of adults who were post tested made gains on the Life Skills Progression
- ✓ 80% of enrolled children were assessed with the ASQ and 63% of those children made gains
- ✓ 83% of enrolled children ages 2.5 to kindergarten who were post tested made gains on the PPVT-III

Thank you to our partners!

Edgefield County School District

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com

Imagination Library



Children’s reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age. One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.**

Edgefield County First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Edgefield County First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



McKenzie shows Ms. Tracy, her teacher at Creative Learning Center, her new book.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-2017

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Children Served | 191 |
| Books Given to Children 0-5 | 1587 |



This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 191 children who were referred from state and local organizations
- ✓ Pre-survey results indicate that 52% of the children enrolled have fewer than 10 books in their home
- ✓ Post-survey results indicate that 43% of families enrolled increased the amount of time they spent reading to their child
- ✓ Was completely funded by private donations from more than 50 community members and organizations in support of children’s literacy

Thank you to our partners!

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Dollywood Foundation | Town of Trenton |
| Maxwell and Halford Drug | Dr. Jeff Gosney |
| United Way of Edgefield | Creative Learning Center |
| Sumner Law Firm LLC | Beth McLeod, Fulcher Law Firm |
| Moorecraft Cabinet Co., Inc. | Reel Insurance Agency, Inc. |
| Women in Rural Electrification (W.I.R.E.) c/o Aiken Electric Cooperative | |

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.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 they 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-R, ECERS-3)

QE by the Numbers, 2016-2017

| | |
|--|----|
| Child Care Providers Served | 1 |
| Number of TA Visits Provided | 26 |
| Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms | 50 |

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2016-2017!

| Child Care Provider | Pre/Post Improvement |
|---|----------------------|
| Creative Learning Center, toddler room | From 5.07 to 5.55 |
| Creative Learning Center, two year old room | From 4.32 to 5.13 |

The scores reflected in the chart above show improvement from the pre-assessments done in the fall of 2016 to the post assessments done in the spring of 2017. Scores can range from a 1.0 (which is inadequate), to a 7.0 (which is excellent).

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by .64 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
- ✓ Provided 30.75 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ Provided \$ 4,000 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Funded scholarships for 30 children within participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

Creative Learning Center
 Saluda County First Steps

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.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.

The training we get from First Steps is always high quality and we are so appreciative of the training they provide for our staff.

Tracy White, Co-Director
 Creative Learning Center

Child Care Training Sponsored by Edgefield County First Steps, 2016-2017

Topic:

- Dialogic Reading
- Brain Development
- It Only Took One Stone
- Intentional Teaching Series (9 workshops)
- Infant/Toddler Continuum of Development
- Preschool Continuum of Development
- Developing Friendship Skills
- Using Positive Feedback and Encouragement
- Cultural Influences on Language and Literacy
- Developing Problem Solving Skills
- Stay Healthy: Wash your Hands!
- Social Emotional Teaching Strategies
- Smart Moves: Why Motor Skills Matter
- Creating a Foundation for Coaching
- Business Basics: Building a Great Team
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Planning Physical Activity
- Introduction to FLIP IT



Training by the Numbers, 2016-2017

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total Training Attendance | 302 |
| Child Care Teachers and Directors Served | 87 |
| Number of Training Sessions Offered | 34 |

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 87 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 51.5 hours of certified training and 2.0 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ Follow-up visits from QE coach to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Center for Child Care Career Development
- S.C. Child Care Resource and Referral
- Creative Learning Center
- Saluda County First Steps

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com

Child Care Scholarships

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

Program Description

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

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

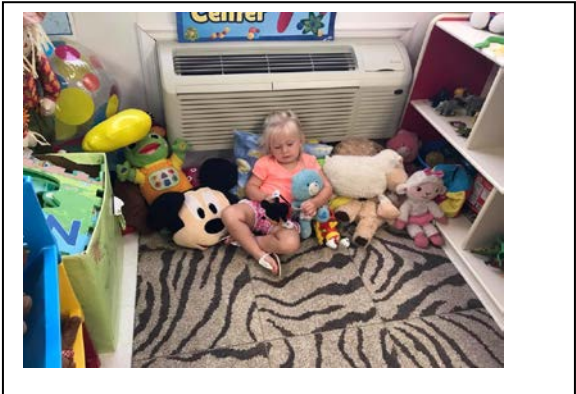
- 84% ... live in poverty
- 72% ... were single parent households
- 16% ... included parental/caregiver depression
- 12% ... were teen parents

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

Child care scholarship families are also referred to the Triple P strategy for parenting workshops.

First Steps is an amazing program and without the scholarship, Gabrielle wouldn't be able to attend daycare. These programs have been a great asset for my and my child's life.

Josey Cooks



Kelsey enjoys the cozy area of her classroom.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-2017

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Children Served | 30 |
| Providers Served | 1 |

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 30 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 22 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 20 connections for families to services such as BabyNet and Triple P
- ✓ Supported 1 small business in Edgefield County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 30 hours of training for scholarship parents with topics such as positive parenting, helping children develop, managing misbehavior, planning ahead, and using positive parenting strategies.

Thank you to our partners!

Creative Learning Center

Edgefield County First Steps
 P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
 803-275-0800
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.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.

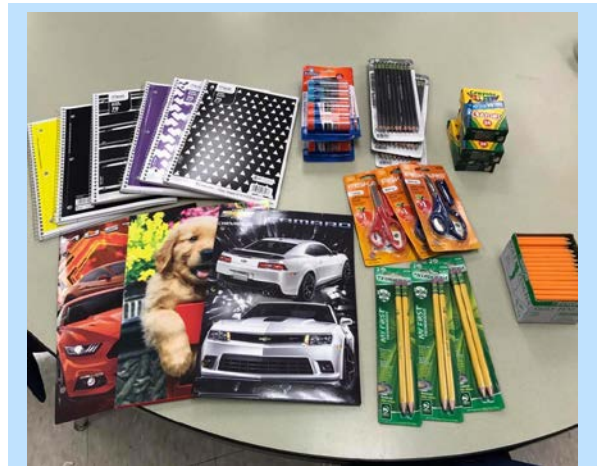
Learning Celebration. The last visit is a "field trip" to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

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 2016

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Children Served | 10 |
| Families Served | 9 |
| Home/School Visits | 60 |

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



School supplies were purchased for all CTK children

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of CTK children were placed in their CTK teacher's classroom
- ✓ There was a 100% gain in parents' knowledge of kindergarten expectations to the "good" or "very detailed" level of understanding.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students during the 2016-17 school year.

Thank you to our partners!

Douglas Elementary School
Merriwether Elementary School
Kaplan Early Learning Company

Like us on Facebook!
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

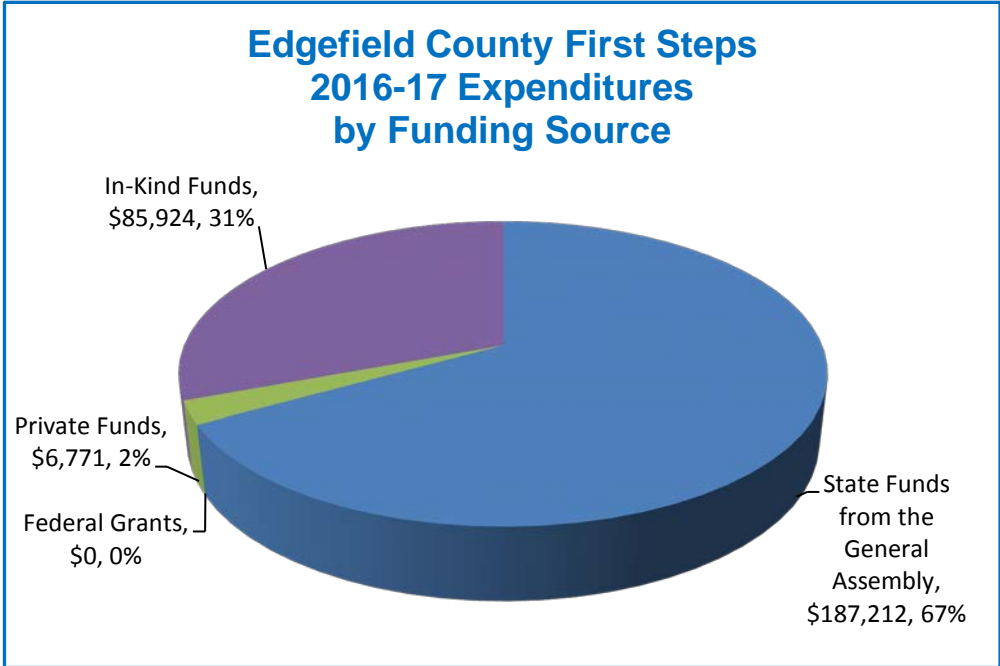


Edgefield County First Steps

P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824
803-275-0800

edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net
www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com

Financial Impact



Total 2016-2017 Expenditures: \$279,907

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 50%

*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 |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Triple P | \$1,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,500 | 1% |
| Imagination Library | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,282 | \$0 | \$3,282 | 1% |
| Countdown to Kindergarten | \$5,458 | \$0 | \$161 | \$821 | \$6,440 | 2% |
| Family Literacy | \$39,987 | \$0 | \$999 | \$70,134 | \$111,120 | 40% |
| Child Care QE and Training | \$20,711 | \$0 | \$299 | \$940 | \$21,950 | 8% |
| Child Care Scholarships | \$63,095 | \$0 | \$0 | \$720 | \$63,815 | 23% |
| Nurse Family Partnership | \$19,378 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,917 | \$25,295 | 9% |
| Program Support | \$22,656 | \$0 | \$1,676 | \$6,852 | \$31,184 | 11% |
| Administrative Support | \$14,427 | \$0 | \$354 | \$540 | \$15,321 | 5% |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$187,212 | \$0 | \$6,771 | \$85,924 | \$279,907 | |

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

Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged \$1,688,842 from sources outside of state government. That's 61 cents for every state dollar.



Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)
- Center for Child Care Career Development:
\$2,000
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation: \$7,000

In-Kind Support

- Edgefield County School District
- Carolina Health Centers Inc.
- Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce
- First Book

How your support helps children in Edgefield County:

- ✓ \$27 provides a young child a book per month for one year
- ✓ \$192 provides 6 home visits for a Countdown to Kindergarten child
- ✓ \$250 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

HOW TO GIVE:

Mail your tax-deductible check (made payable to Edgefield County First Steps) to P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824

Save the Date!

Nominations for the Edgefield County First Steps Board will be accepted from November 2017 through January 2018. Please contact us at 803-275-0800 if you are interested in serving on our Board.

The Edgefield County First Steps Annual Meeting will be in January 2018 - date to be announced

The Week of the Young Child is April 16-20, 2018 – check our Facebook page in April 2018 for more details

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

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

Perseverance Prevails – A Family Literacy Success Story

The 2016-2017 Edgefield County Family Literacy Program was very successful in producing five graduates, which included two high school diploma recipients and three GED recipients. All of the graduates were successful in accomplishing their individual goals and one student's success was particularly outstanding.

Crystal Ivey has shown great determination in completing her education. Nine years ago, Crystal enrolled in the Edgefield County Adult Education Program in pursuit of her GED. During those years, Crystal became a single mother of two children. Crystal participated in the GED online program, evening literacy, Career Readiness/WorkKeys and GED /HSD preparation. Crystal earned a Bronze Career Readiness WorkKeys Certificate.

There was a period prior to completing her GED credentials when Crystal was inactive. In December 2016, Crystal was determined to finish her education so she could pursue college. She enrolled in the Edgefield County Adult Education program where she attended the Fox Creek location evening classes. Crystal soon realized she needed extra support; therefore, she transferred to the Johnston Learning Center location to enroll in the family literacy program. Crystal has a 2 year old son and needed childcare. Fortunately, the Edgefield County Family Literacy program was able to meet Crystal's needs. In assessing Crystal's Life Skills Progression, Crystal made the greatest progression gain. In reviewing the TABE (Test for Adult Basic Education) scores, Crystal advanced six grade levels during this school year, which is a testament of her hard work and determination. Crystal's scores were well above the other family literacy participants enrolled in the program. Crystal maintained all of her scheduled home visits. While participating, Crystal faced several obstacles but she did not let those obstacles stop her. The Adult Education and Family Literacy staff continued to motivate and encourage Crystal, as they do all of the students enrolled in the programs.

In May of 2017, Crystal Ivey successfully completed her GED credential. She decided to retake the Career Readiness WorkKeys assessment and scored a silver certificate this time. Crystal's daughter advanced to the 2nd grade and her son will be attending Head Start this year. Last but not least, Crystal enrolled in Aiken Technical College to pursue a career as a pharmacy technician.

First Steps Partnership Board

Community Members as Leaders for Early Childhood Education

The Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board Board consists of members representing our county’s education, health, business, faith, social service, and civic communities. These individuals are dedicated to the purpose of ensuring that all our children reach first grade ready to learn and succeed.

This group of committed volunteers carries our message to their respective communities. In addition, they bring the ideas, input and concerns of the community for children’s issues into our board room for discussion, evaluation and inclusion in our plans, programs, and services.

Edgefield County First Steps would not succeed without their dedication to our mission and their devotion to children.

Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board, July 2016 - June 2017

| Name | Position | Board Category |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Liz Posey, Chair | Retired | Faith Community |
| Jenny Mims, Vice Chair | 4K Teacher, Edgefield County Schools | Pre-K through Primary Educator |
| Gail Jackson, Secretary | Retired | Faith Community |
| Bridget Clark, Treasurer | Retired | County Library Appointee |
| Carla Dorn | Administrative Specialist | DHEC Appointee |
| Margaret Childress | Adult Education Teacher, Edgefield County Schools | School District Appointee |
| Renee Williams | Family Literacy Director, Edgefield County Schools | Family Education Provider |
| Jennifer Satterwhite | Teacher, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission | ECD/Education Provider |
| Cynthia Howard | Teacher, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission | ECD/Education Provider |
| Heather Trotter | Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Peach Tree Medical Center | Healthcare Provider |
| Donna Thompson | Early Head Start Case Manager, SC First Steps | ECD/Education Provider |
| Robin Miller | Administrative Team Leader | DHEC appointee |
| Amy Wilhelm | K5 Teacher, Edgefield County Schools | Pre-K through Primary Educator |
| Blair Massey | Attorney | Business Community |
| Moronda Talley | Director, Edgefield County Department of Social Services | DSS appointee |
| Janice Cleveland | K5 Teacher, Edgefield County Schools | Pre-K through Primary Educator |



[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.

Visit: ican.sc
 Like us on Facebook: [icansc](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)