

CLARENDON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training



# Annual Report

2016-2017



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Clarendon County
Children Under Five	291,026	1,665
Children In Poverty	24.4%	38.1%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	Clarendon 1 – 39.7 Clarendon 2 – 35.3 Clarendon 3 – 28.6
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15%	16.3%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Clarendon County First Steps has leveraged \$1,242,951 from sources outside state government. That's 37 cents for every dollar received.
- Partnered with local school districts to successfully deliver 972 visits to parents and children enrolled in the Parents As Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten programs.
- Improved parenting practices through 23 Group Connections/Parent Workshops.
- Total Children Served in FY17: 382

Clarendon County First Steps

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 Manning, SC 29102

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Board Chairperson

Tonia M. Smith, GPC

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Clarendon County First Steps  
**Sharon P. Williams, MPA**  
 Executive Director

Research clearly and consistently shows that 90% of children's full brain potential is formed by the age of four. That represents a small, yet significant, window of opportunity for us to make a strong and enduring impact on our children. This is why quality early care and education experiences for prekindergarten children matter!

Thank you to our many and diverse partners for recognizing that quality early care and education experiences matter and for doing all you can to help us to implement programs and services conducive to positive and lasting outcomes for Clarendon County's youngest and most vulnerable citizens. Whatever your contribution (i.e., serving on the Partnership Board, serving as a partner in implementing programs and services, referring families with young children, providing funding and/or other resources for programs to be implemented in accordance with best practices and South Carolina First Steps' Standards), please know that the investments you have made today will continue to make a world of difference for all of us in the future. Your willingness to partner with us enables us to maximize our limited resources so that we can, together, do as much as we can to ensure that Clarendon County's youngest and most vulnerable citizens have the best chance possible of reaching first grade healthy and ready to succeed.

Thank you!



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- 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, Clarendon County First Steps focuses its investments in family strengthening (this program seeks to promote early literacy development too), quality child care, and school transition.**

## 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

Clarendon County First Steps uses its limited resources to serve families most in need. Among our PAT families:

- 80% Have 2 or more risk factors associated with children not being ready for school;
- 98% Receive one or more services associated with poverty (i.e., TANF and/or SNAP eligibility).



*"Parents are so important in helping children to be prepared for school and for life! They have been from day one, and they know more about their children than anyone else. We owe it to our children to do everything we can to ensure that their parents know as much as possible to help them to be ready for school."*

*~Kathleen L. Gibson, PAT Coordinator, CSD1*

### PAT by the Numbers 2016-2017

Families Served	40	
Children Served	41	
Total Home Visits	730	
Hours Spent Serving Families	663	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale or KIPS (pre-to-post):	0.79	
Average gain, Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory or ACIRI (pre-to-post):	Adult-0.5	Child-0.57

### This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Worked to improve access to resources that promote early literacy skills. 68% of participant families' children were enrolled in and received books monthly through the CCFS' Imagination Library. Additionally, programs gifted 799 books, loaned 214 books and loaned 434 literacy kits to participant families.
- ✓ Made 46 connections for families to services such as transportation, adult education, housing, early care and education, speech, and other important services participant families needed.
- ✓ Continued to seek funding in partnership with other organizations so that Parents as Teachers can be expanded to serve more of Clarendon County's children pre-birth to five years old and their families.

### Thank you to our partners!

- Clarendon School District One (CSD1)
- Clarendon School District Two (CSD2)
- Clarendon School District Three (CSD3)

### Clarendon County First Steps

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**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.**

Clarendon County First Steps is the local sponsor of the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, the 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 Clarendon 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.



## Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-2017

Children Served	208
Books Given to Children 0-5	1,881

**Facts about Reading and Young People**

- The more words a child hears, the larger the child’s vocabulary. The larger the child’s vocabulary, the more likely he/she will be a proficient reader.
- A report of the Commission on Reading states that “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for future reading success is reading aloud to children”.

**This year, our Imagination Library program:**

- ✓ Provided one book per month to participant children. Children were referred by parent education programs, early care and education programs, and others that work with parents of preschool age children; and
- ✓ Provided American Library Association Early Literacy Guides with tips on reading to children of various ages to all new program participants.

## Thank you to our partners!

- Clarendon School Districts One, Two and Three
- Clarendon County’s Child Care Community
- Dollywood Foundation
- Save the Children

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# Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

## Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom and/or homework in between sessions. CCFS and the early care and education consultants with whom we work seek to make sure, to the extent possible, that providers are putting into practice the information presented during training sessions.

*"I have attended many of the training sessions offered by Clarendon County First Steps. The trainers (especially Dr. Walker) make the classes fun and interactive. I have learned a lot in sessions and put them into action in the classroom. Great training makes a world of difference!"*

*~Latasha Ragin, Teacher Assistant, Fleming-Felder Head Start*



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

Topic:	Hours:
• Program Administration: A Closer Look	2.5
• Factors Affecting Social & Emotional Development, Parts I & II	5.0
• Assessment in Early Literacy, Parts I & II	5.0
• Providing High Quality Early Childhood Environments	2.5
• How Can I Prevent Misbehavior in Children	2.5

### This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 20 early care and education professionals with high quality training. Together, these professionals served approximately 132 children.
- ✓ 17.5 hours of certified training to early care and education professionals. Sessions allow providers to meet annual recertification requirements and learn best practices in early care and education so that they can provide quality services to the children in their care. CCFS provided 5 hours of training on Curriculum Activities, 2.5 hours of training on Health and Safety, 5 hours on Child Growth and Development, 2.5 hours on Child Guidance and 2.5 hours on Program Administration.

### Thank you to our partners!

- Clarendon County's Child Care Community
- Clarendon County Community Center
- Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development

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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 five 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 sixth and final 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

Families Served	42
Children Served	42
Home/School Visits	242

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

Here are some books parents can use to talk with children about what they can expect in preschool/kindergarten.

- Monkey Not Ready for Kindergarten by Marc Brown
- Dad's First Day by Mike Wohnoutka
- I am Too Absolutely Small for School by Lauren Child
- The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi
- Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes
- David Goes to School by David Shannon
- Mom, It's My First Day of Kindergarten by Hyewon Yum
- My Teacher is a Monster! (No I am not) by Peter Brown

## This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

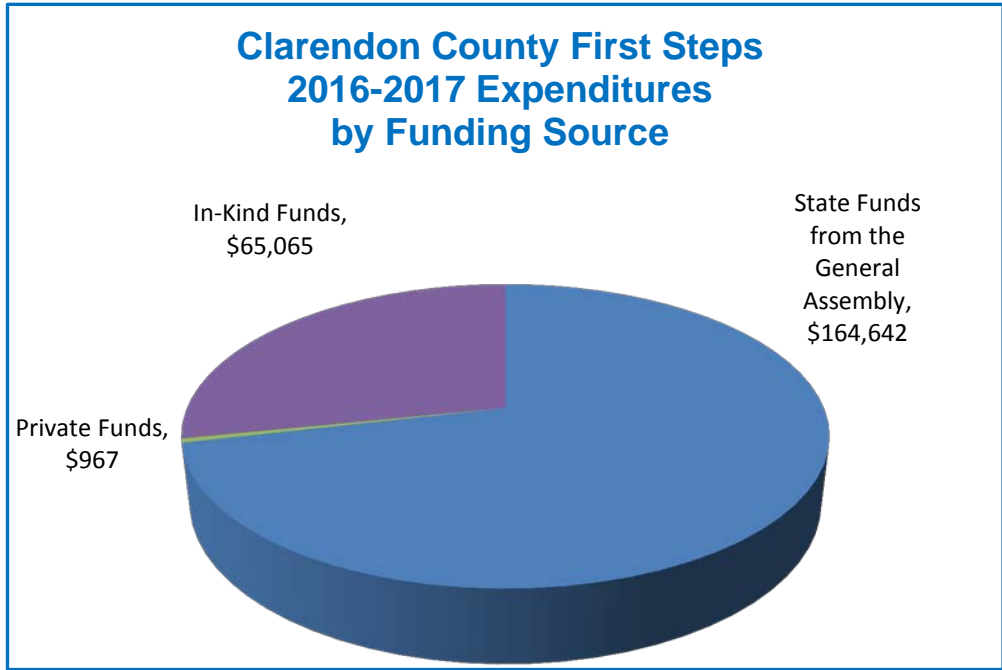
- ✓ Continued to receive assistance from local Head Start Centers in identifying children for the program. Partnering with Head Start allowed us to be able to use our limited dollars to serve those children most in need of CTK services.
- ✓ Continued to receive funding from Clarendon School District Two to serve rising five-year-old kindergarteners slated to attend the Manning Early Childhood Center. Funding from Clarendon School District Two covered the cost of CTK tool-kits.
- ✓ 100% of parents surveyed report that the program helped them to learn more about what was expected of their children in kindergarten.

## Thank you to our partners!

Clarendon County's Child Care Community  
 Clarendon School Districts One, Two & Three Teachers  
 Fleming-Felder & Paxville Head Start Centers  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company

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**Total 2016-2017 Expenditures: \$230,674**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2016-2017\*: 40%**

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

### 2016-2017 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$52,702	\$0	\$0	\$57,786	\$110,488	48%
Imagination Library	\$2,792	\$0	\$967	\$0	\$3,759	2%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$5,627	\$0	\$0	\$2,011	\$7,639	3%
Child Care Training	\$28,022	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,022	12%
Program Support	\$49,253	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$49,253	21%
Administrative Support	\$26,245	\$0	\$0	\$5,268	\$31,513	14%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$164,642</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$967</b>	<b>\$65,065</b>	<b>\$230,674</b>	

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

**Since inception, Clarendon County First Steps has worked to make a positive and enduring difference in the lives of Clarendon County's children!**



# First Steps Partnership Board

Clarendon County First Steps would not be able to efficiently and effectively serve the children and families of Clarendon County without our local board of directors. This group of committed volunteers are responsible for all of the following:

- Ensuring that CCFS's staff are operating programs and services in accordance with standards that have been established by the SC First Steps State Office;
- Implementing programs that are research-based and proven effective in improving school readiness in preschool children;
- Ensuring that CCFS' funding is expended in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, as well as best practices in nonprofit management;
- Ensuring that CCFS implements best practices in carrying out the mission of the organization;
- Collaborating with other organizations within Clarendon County and outside of Clarendon County in meaningful ways; and
- Securing and maximizing resources in order to implement quality early care and education programs and services.

Thank you to members of the CCFS Partnership Board for all you do to contribute in meaningful ways to ensure that Clarendon County's children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. Your unwavering commitment has made and will continue to make a world of difference in the lives of our children!

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Board Category</b>
<b>Tonia M. Smith, GPC, Chairperson</b>	<b>Director, TMS Consulting</b>	<b>Nonprofit Organization</b>
<b>Pamela Clavon-Brunson, Vice- Chairperson</b>	<b>Director, Golpher 1, LLC</b>	<b>Business Community</b>
<b>Jennifer Jean, Secretary</b>	<b>Children's Librarian, Harvin Clarendon County Library</b>	<b>Local Library</b>
<b>Tamara Alston-Hunter</b>	<b>Director of Testing &amp; Special Programs</b>	<b>Clarendon School District Three Representative</b>
<b>Christy Coker</b>	<b>Kindergarten Teacher</b>	<b>Pre-kindergarten-Primary Educator</b>
<b>Mary Cooper</b>	<b>Nurse, Wateree Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start Representative</b>
<b>Kathleen L. Gibson</b>	<b>Parenting Coordinator</b>	<b>Clarendon School District One Representative</b>
<b>Priscilla Green</b>	<b>Kindergarten Teacher</b>	<b>Pre-kindergarten-Primary Educator</b>
<b>Judy Holmes</b>	<b>Director, Gifted, Talented &amp; Special Projects</b>	<b>Clarendon School District Two Representative</b>
<b>Helen Jackson</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Parent of a preschool child</b>
<b>Joni James-Jackson</b>	<b>Director, Wee Academy Learning Center</b>	<b>Child Care Provider</b>
<b>Michael Jonas</b>	<b>CS/IT Manager, Santee-Wateree RTA</b>	<b>Transportation Provider</b>
<b>Robin Layton</b>	<b>Director, Clarendon County Department of Social Services</b>	<b>DSS Representative</b>
<b>Darla Lee</b>	<b>Nurse, Clarendon County DHEC</b>	<b>DHEC Representative</b>
<b>Jason Montgomery</b>	<b>Judicial Clerk, City of Manning</b>	<b>Local Government</b>
<b>Wanda Nelson</b>	<b>Assistant Pastor, Goodwill Baptist Church</b>	<b>Faith Community</b>
<b>Dr. Myra Pearson</b>	<b>Pastor, Jehovah-Jireh Outreach Ministry</b>	<b>Family Education, Training &amp; Support Provider</b>
<b>Faye Ragin</b>	<b>Director, Faye's Day Care</b>	<b>Child Care Provider</b>

# Getting children ready for school.

## The Goals of First Steps

- (1) To 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) To increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) To promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) To 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) To 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 in Clarendon County:  
SUMTER SPOE MANNING, SC 29102 #: (803) 774-8280

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

## Thank You!

### Funding Support

State of South Carolina  
(through *South Carolina First Steps*)  
Clarendon County School District Two  
SC Center for Child Care Career Development

### In-Kind Support

Clarendon School District One  
Clarendon School District Two  
Clarendon School District Three  
Experience Works  
First Book USA