

BAMBERG COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Professional Child Care  
Training & Development

ABC Child Care Scholarships

“MOMMYCISE” Health and  
Wellness Camp

# Annual Report

2017-18



## OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child  
will be prepared for  
success in school.

Facebook: @Bamberg First Steps  
3788 Faust Street/P.O. Box 1129, Bamberg, SC 29003 ♦ (803) 245-6513 ♦  
pplowden29042@yahoo.com

## Empowering our Children for the FUTURE

"Bamberg, South Carolina's children are our greatest asset and most valuable resource. Investing in them is the most cost effective, socially responsible investment our small rural county and the state of South Carolina can make. My name is Pauletta Plowden, and this is my eighteenth years serving diligently as Executive Director with Bamberg County First Steps. Bamberg County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership in contract with Bamberg County School District One has been in business to ensure quality services to our community, children and families since 1999. Bamberg County First Steps serves as an important educational resource for children and families, community schools and daycare providers, state agencies and local businesses.

Per South Carolina First Steps Legislation (Section 52-152-70) Bamberg County First Steps has hosted several needs assessment meetings and/or focus groups incorporating a collaborative effort to engage the citizens of Bamberg County in what they deem to be priorities for children ages zero-five years. With a collection of over one hundred surveys, citizens spoke to the importance of the First Steps Legislative Goals, which are to:

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."

Bamberg County has a population of approximately 15,649 residents. There are approximately 1,840 children ages 5 to 14. Children under age 5 years are at 5.8 % of the population at 672 children. Economically 42% of the county's children live in households below the poverty level. 25.1% live in a family where no parent is employed. Educationally, 14.5% of Bamberg County's children fail the 1-3 grades and 33.5 % test below state standards for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading and 35.5% in math. Bamberg County ranked at #39 for infant mortality and low birth weights at 10.8%. Children living in single family homes is at 53.4% and 18.8% of households are head by a parent without a high school diploma.

### Why is this important to Bamberg County First Steps?

When children meet education milestones, live in economically and emotionally stable homes and live in supportive communities, they are more likely to thrive and grow into productive, contributing citizens of our state. Currently, too many of Bamberg, South Carolina's children live in environments that put them at risk for many negative outcomes, including child abuse and neglect. The data paints a very alarming need for Bamberg County First Steps services.

### What can Bamberg County First Steps do?

To address the community concerns for the children of Bamberg County, surveys indicated the following as highest priorities:

1. Parents needing parenting skills/ family counseling and single parenting support.
2. Free ABC Childcare Scholarships for working families and those attending school.
3. Teacher Training and developmental resource support.

To comprehensively support the challenges of our local children, Bamberg County First Steps provides a message of hope that affords our children and families' educational strategies that focus on *Family Strengthening, Healthy Start, Quality Childcare* and *School Transition*. With our best practice strategies, we afford families the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Model, an evidence-based early childhood visitation program that offers that personal touch from a certified home visitor. Families receive intense training in becoming their child's first and most important teacher. As an addendum to parent training, Bamberg County First Steps provides DSS Childcare Scholarships to high need families to assist them in completing their education and or working a full time job. While daycare is essential, it is equally important that our early care teachers are afforded high quality training and professional development. Therefore, Bamberg County First Steps offers our local early care teachers certified Childcare Training and Development in the areas of *Child Growth and Development, Nutrition, Health and Safety, Curriculum, Child Guidance and Professional Development*. Research indicates that well trained teachers are the key to promoting a healthy and safe learning environment for our children.

Understanding how the early years impact the lives of our youngest learners, Bamberg County First Steps remains empowered and committed to excellence in ensuring that its mission to helping children during their developmental years of life, grow healthy and ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

As we bring closure to another important year of comprehensive strategic services, we would like to say a very big "thank-you" to our First Steps Board Members, staff, the many community partners, families, schools/daycares, businesses, citizens and friends who contributed to our family services. Within the next year, Bamberg County First Steps will expand services and empower families to be committed to excellence in preparing our youngest learners for leadership in our small rural county of Bamberg, South Carolina.

Professionally Yours,

*Pauletta Plowden*

Pauletta Plowden  
Bamberg County First Steps Executive Director

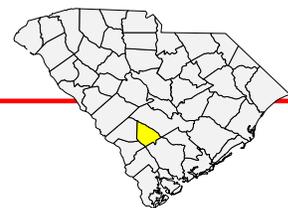


## OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps South Carolina families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.

Find Bamberg County  
First Steps:





## THE NEED

School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Bamberg County.

How are Bamberg County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
<b>672</b> are under age 5	<b>61</b> attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	<b>10</b> licensed child care centers
<b>42.7%</b> live in poverty	<b>90</b> attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	<b>3</b> licensed group/family homes
<b>16.4%</b> of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	<b>93</b> 4-year-olds attended free full & half-day public school 4K or Head Start	<b>3</b> participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
<b>Less than \$18,215</b> Per capita income for the county	<b>45</b> 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	<b>2</b> providers are rated B or higher by <b>ABC Quality</b>
<b>31.50%</b> of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	<b>16</b> were served by 	<b>103</b> families received assistance with affording child care last year
<i>Kids Count data provided by:</i> 	<i>Data provided by:</i> 	

## THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Bamberg County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Bamberg County First Steps will increase the capacity of parents to be their child's first and most important teachers by expanding the Parents as Teachers evidence based home visiting program.
2. To improve the quality of Child Care Training, Bamberg County First Steps will offer professional developmentally appropriate training coursework to local childcare teachers/ directors and early education teachers/principals.
3. To improve and strengthen families Bamberg County First Steps will offer quality ABC Child Care Scholarships to working families and those attending school fulltime.
4. Bamberg County First Steps will connect families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development.

## THE IMPACT

### In 2017-18, Bamberg County First Steps provided:

- ✓ 16 children and 17 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being in our Parents as Teachers Program. 100% of parents are employed/attending school.
- ✓ 39 staff working in 9 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, helping them better meet the needs of # children ages 0-5 in their care (List programs: First Baptist Church Daycare, Progressive Family Church Daycare, Karen's Little Rascals Daycare, Richard Carroll Elementary School, Dover Elementary, Orangeburg Prep Childcare Center, Lockett Elementary, Trinity United Methodist Daycare, Little Precious Angels Daycare)
- ✓ ABC Scholarship financial assistance to help 13 children ages 0-5 attend high quality child care so their parents can work or attend school
- ✓ 524 books to spark the love of reading for 56 children (List programs: Parents As Teachers Program, Progressive Family Church Daycare, First Baptist Church Daycare)
- ✓ a total of 1,350 children/adults were impacted by Bamberg County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.



# School Readiness Outcomes

## What is the KRA?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina’s newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students’ abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE (90 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	24%	24%	51%
Language&Literacy	21%	51%	28%
Mathematics	23%	49%	28%
Physical Dev&WB	22%	29%	49%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>40%</b>

BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO (44 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	55%	27%
Language&Literacy	23%	45%	32%
Mathematics	36%	50%	14%
Physical Dev&WB	7%	18%	75%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>23%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

- 1. Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- 2. Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
- 3. Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
- 4. Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

### What is Bamberg County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

To improve KRA results the partnership will work diligently with local school districts and early care programs to focus on increasing professional training and development for administrators and teachers, promoting parenting services to all county families and enhancing community collaboration and outreach.

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

## Program Description

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

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

**Bamberg County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:**

- 90% ... live in poverty
- 10% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 95% ... single parent households
- 10% ... were teen parents
- 5% ... caregiver depression



This Family Group Meeting featured a guest speaker with a focus on Domestic Violence in the family.



Brianna and Kington are enjoying a fun educational arts activity.

### PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	16	
Children Served	16	
Total Home Visits	294	
Hours Spent Serving Families	378.93	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.74	4.31

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 18.38 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays and made 14 connections for families to services such as Transportation, Adult Medical Home, Housing Resources, DHEC, Employment Resources, DSS/TANF, Children Health Insurance Program and Dental Services.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices by increasing percentages in KIPS (.57)
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by increasing ACIRI percentages (A=.13/C=.18) and distributing 282 to families to build libraries in the home.

### Thank you to our PAT partners!

- Bamberg School District One
- DSS Child Care Scholarships
- Goody's Department Store
- BAB Toys for Tots

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# 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.



“Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly is a highly qualified professional educator who has afforded excellent high quality, certified early care training to local directors and teachers for over fifteen years. Teachers look forward to BCFS training each year”!

### Training Sponsored by Bamberg County First Steps, 2017-18

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Child Growth & Development: Language Use from the Preschool to Primary Years Curriculum: Maintaining a High Quality Environment	One Session
Health & Safety: Implementing Safety Practices, Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session
Child Guidance: Fundamental Causes of Positive and Negative Behavior	One Session

### Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	95
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	39
Number of Training Sessions Offered	5

### This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 39 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 33 providers and 353 children
- ✓ 21 hours of certified training and for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 17 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

### Thank you to our Training partners!

- Bamberg School District One
- Bamberg Adult Ed
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Bamberg 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.

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

- 90% ... live in poverty
- 10% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 10% ... were teen parents
- 10% ... had developmental delays

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

Parents who participate in the scholarship program also participate in Parents as Teachers which targets families with high needs and risk indicators.

*"Bamberg County First Steps has been a huge support system for my family with assistance with two of my babies. While attending school and being employed fulltime, they have given me an opportunity to build my career by assisting me with funding for child care, as I reentered the workforce".*

- S. Ellison



Beautiful Family Picture after a visit

### Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	13
Providers Served	3

### This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 13 babies with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 14 connections for families to services such as Transportation, Adult Medical Home, Housing Resources, DHEC, Employment Resources, DSS/TANF, Children Health Insurance Program and Dental Services
- ✓ Supported 3 small businesses in Bamberg County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 24 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Safety, Quality Child Care, Fun & Fit as a Family, Literacy in Action, Dental Health, Domestic Violence and Family Holidays/Fun Time.

### Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

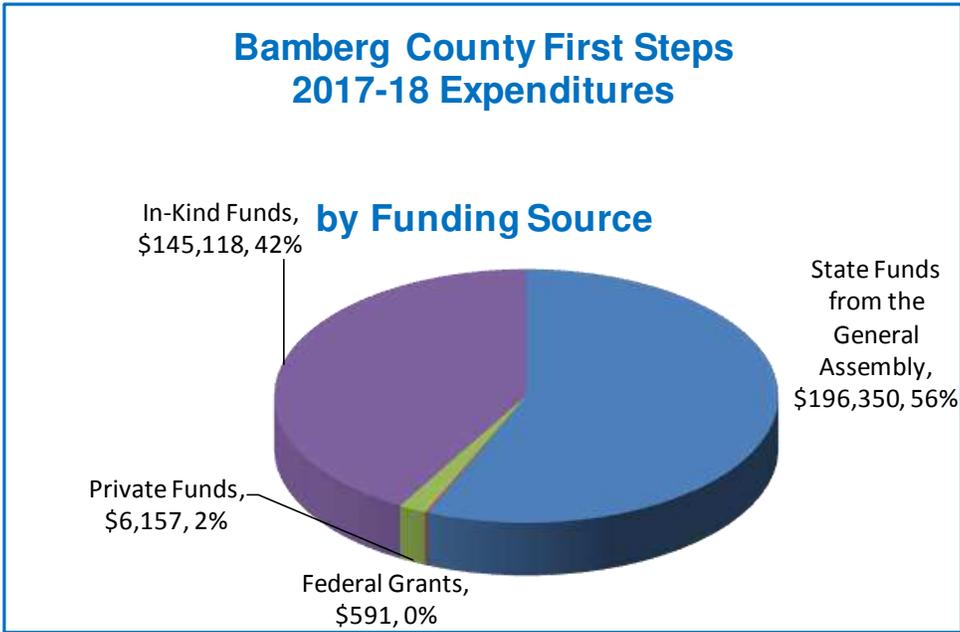
- DSS – ABC Childcare Scholarships
- Bamberg School District One
- First Baptist Church Daycare
- Progressive Family Life Center
- Little Precious Angels Daycare

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence-based programs:  
 Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Program



# Financial Impact



**Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$348,216**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18\*: 77%**

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

### 2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$60,327	\$0	\$1,226	\$120,218	\$181,771	52%
Child Care Training	\$37,562	\$0	\$2,596	\$4,980	\$45,138	13%
Child Care Scholarships	\$17,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$21,000	6%
Early Head Start	\$0	\$591	\$0	\$0	\$591	0%
Program Support	\$56,132	\$0	\$2,175	\$11,440	\$69,747	20%
Administrative Support	\$24,829	\$0	\$160	\$4,980	\$29,969	9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$196,350</b>	<b>\$591</b>	<b>\$6,157</b>	<b>\$145,118</b>	<b>\$348,216</b>	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

**Since inception, Bamberg County First Steps has leveraged \$2,372,889.02 from sources outside of state government. That's 78 cents for every state dollar!**

# Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Bamberg 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)*
- Bamberg Council Recreation Grant: \$547.25
- Tri-County Foundation: \$1,000.00
- A.J Cann: \$1,000.00

## In-Kind Support

- Bamberg County School District One
- DSS - ABC Child Care Scholarship
- Wilson & Luginbill Law Firm, LLC
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc-Eta Nu & Nu Tau Omega



Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc. –  
 Eta Nu & Nu Tau Omega

Wilson & Luginbill Law Firm, LLC



**How your support helps children in Bamberg County:**

- ✓ \$30.00 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$50.00 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$292.00 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month
- ✓ \$50.00 helps provide families with holiday gifts, food and/or supplies for the holidays

**HOW TO GIVE:** Mail all contribution to: Bamberg County First Steps, P.O. Box 1129, Bamberg, SC 29003

**Support Bamberg County First Steps Annual Projects TODAY!**  
*Santa's Little Helpers Toy & Food Drive Mommycise Summer Wellness Camp and the Annual Back to School Drive*

## Save the Date!

- Santa's Little Helpers Toy & Food Drive: October 2018 – December 2018
- Community Yard Sale: December 1, 2018 & June 8, 2019
- Professional Early Care Teachers & Administrators Training: January-May 2019 (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday)
- Annual Meeting: May 16, 2019
- Mommycise Summer Wellness Camp: Tuesdays and Thursdays – June 2019
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Bash: August 2019

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

# Community Impact

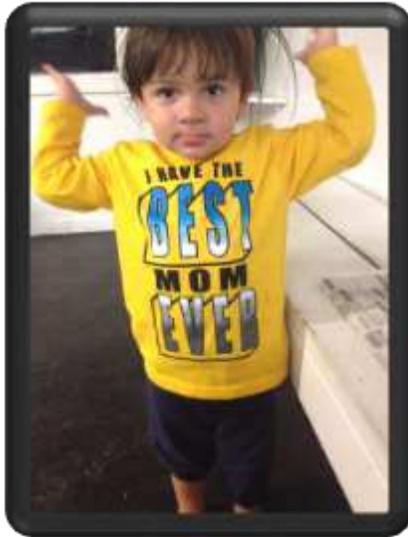
## Bamberg County First Steps Supports Young Family

Submitted By PAT Member - The Smith Family



"I am a first time parent, which means I was walking into a situation with no experience and not much support. This program has taught me how to be a better parent. Not only did they provide me with a better opportunity for my child, but they gave us another family. Kyrie was given the chance to interact with other children, to get a head start with learning, and it also allowed me to work without being too concerned about the cost of daycare. I am currently pregnant with my second child and I feel as though I am walking into this situation with a better understanding of how to be a good and supportive parent because of this program. Before joining BCFS I was kind of skeptical because I did not want anyone telling me how I should raise my child but that wasn't the situation at all. They were all very supportive and they provide each family with a loving environment like no other. I

have recommended this program to a few of my family members in hope that they will appreciate the love and support that BCFS has to offer. I am truly grateful for everything that they have done for my family". Sincerely, Victor, Shanelle & Kyrie



### "My Village"

There is an old "saying", "it takes a village to raise a child". It wasn't until I had my son that I fully understood that "saying". I found myself part of the First Steps Village by accident. I saw an advertisement for their "Mommycise Boot Camp" and feeling bad about the baby weight I had yet to lose, I gave them a call. It was **love** at first sight! My son and I were made to feel at home during the month long boot camp, he could play while I learned about my health and we both got some much needed exercise. Over the years, these ladies, our First Steps Village, have helped me find a job, helped with daycare, but most importantly they have helped us find "**our place**" in the community and build a better "**village**" for other families!

–Kristine Autry, BCFS Board Member, PAT Member

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

# First Steps Partnership Board

**Bamberg County First Steps Empowers Children for Future Success!!!**



**Bamberg County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18**

Name	Position	Board Category
Tracy K. Golden, Chair	Family Support Specialist	Family Education and Training
Kristine Autry, Vice Chair	Library Assistant	Parent of a Pre-School Child
Janet Argrow	Headstart Center Director	Head Start Appointee
Ernestine Barnwell		B&B Meats
Renne Brown	Nurse	Healthcare Provider
Darlene Bryant	Human Service Specialist	DSS Appointee
Candice Darnell	Executive Director	DHEC Appointee
Dr. Charles Gaillard	Doctor	Healthcare Provider
Johnell Gaines	Social Development Director	Family Education and Training
Loretta Glasper	Teacher	School District Appointee
Patricia Harley	Transportation Specialist	Legislative Appointee
Junita Jamison	Childcare Director	Childcare/Early Child Development
Iona Murdaugh	Library Assistant	Library Appointee

# What is First Steps?

**At the state level and in every county**, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina’s children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child’s first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

## First Steps Goals

- (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.

### First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

**Local portals** connecting preschool children and families to services

**Conveners** of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

**Champions** of the importance of school readiness to our children’s future.



for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:

**scfirststeps.org**

for Bamberg County First Steps:

**Facebook: @BambergFirstSteps**



[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**