



Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every Allendale County child will be prepared for success in school.

Working Together to Ensure the Children and Families of Allendale County are Ready for School!

Greetings,

Many years have passed since 1999 when we began this journey to have children ready for kindergarten. I know that we have many memories and each of you may have a story or two that you could tell! I want to thank our First Steps families, partners, child care workers, and the community for making Allendale County First Steps your home. We pride ourselves on being an agency designed to meet the needs of learners through researched-based programs offered, trainings and review of data to demonstrate what worked and what it is we need to formulate strategies and goals to work more effectively, efficiently and with relevance. We thank you for your long hours of working, dedication, commitment, meeting and putting plans and ideas into action to reach our common goals. I am so proud of how many of you have pushed forward, because you wanted our children, parents, partners and the community to climb on board as a united front filled with enthusiasm, on fire and eager to make a difference as we strived to be the best.

I challenge each of you to continue these actions as I complete my first year as your Board Chair. I pray that everyone will stand and stay on what we've started as we prepare to push harder, move further, and provide the best service we can to our clients and community. Again, thanks to everyone who has and will continue to contribute to the success of Allendale County First Steps and invite you to become a part of the process this year. We welcome and value your talent, ideas, involvement and support for learning. I am excited to engage with each of you to build on our legacy of success! Let us move forward collectively as we create success.

In service to all,

Evelyn Smith-Smart
Allendale County First Steps Board Chair



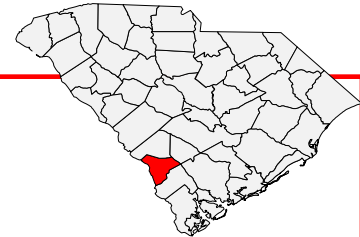
OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps Allendale County 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 Allendale County First Steps:







We get children ready.



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 Allendale County.

How are Allendale 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?
398 are under age 5	27 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	2 licensed child care centers
52% live in poverty	44 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	1 licensed group/family homes
24% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	14 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	100% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
7% Live birth to mothers under 18 in 2016	NA 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	2 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality
21% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	0 were served by 	48 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 Allendale County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Expand the reach of programs and services of Allendale County First Steps
2. Increase and improve access to early childhood services in the community to ensure children in need are enrolled in quality early education programs
3. Increase public awareness of Allendale County First Steps and mobilize community to work in support of ACFS mission

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Allendale County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **34 children and 33 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. (**Parents as Teachers**)
- ✓ **36 staff** working in **two** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 136 children ages 0-5 in their care** (**Child Care Training**)
- ✓ financial assistance to help 19 **children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school (**Scholarships**)
- ✓ **1,555 books** to **spark the love of reading for children** (**Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, Child Care Centers, Emma's House – afterschool program and community events**)
- ✓ a total of **281 children and 246 adults** were impacted by Allendale County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

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:

Allendale (96 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	51%	27%	18%
Language&Literacy	27%	47%	27%
Mathematics	24%	56%	20%
Physical Dev&WB	43%	28%	20%
OVERALL	37%	42%	21%

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%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%



- 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 Allendale County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

The results of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) show we need to increase our students' abilities in the four domains: Social Foundations, Language & Literacy, Mathematics, Physical Development and Well Being. Allendale County First Steps Local Convener Team will direct its focus on increasing parental involvement and outreach to certain underserved areas of the county. The school district already has additional trainings for teachers on the area of development (like social and emotional) in place. The district also sponsors an after school program to address the domains.

649 Railroad Avenue E ~ Allendale SC 29810
 Phone: 803.702.9010 ~ Fax: 803.702.9020
 Email: a1steps@yahoo.com

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

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

100% ... single parent home
97% ... receive assistance from SNAP
24% ... exposed to domestic violence



Because of Allendale County First Steps, my future is so much brighter!

Shaquetta

I've learned how to improve my communication skills with my son.

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	33	
Children Served	34	
Total Home Visits	650	
Hours Spent Serving Families	662	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS Pre: 2 Post: 2.21 Gain: .71	ACIRI Pre: 1.95 Post: 2.16 Gain: .79

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

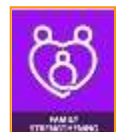
- ✓ Averaged 21 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 4 potential developmental delays, and made 2 connections for families to services such as BabyNet and SC Housing Authority.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices as evidence by a positive growth of .71 in KIPS and .79 in ACIRI.
- ✓ Improve literacy skill by assisting thirty-three families with building libraries in their homes; 687 books were distributed during home visits, and acquiring library cards.

Thank you to our PAT partners!

Allendale County School District
County of Allendale
Town of Allendale
Private Donors

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.

Allendale County First Steps has truly been a life safer for me!

Carrie

I love not having to travel far to get my required hours to keep my certification.

Training Sponsored by Allendale County First Steps, 2017-18

Topic:	Sessions:
*Blood-Borne Pathogens	Two Sessions
*SHAPE	Modules 1-5
*Communication/Language & Physical Development of Young Children	Two Sessions
*Creating Safe Environment	One Session
*Environments that Nurture Early Language	One Session
*Cradling Literacy-Early Language	Two sessions
*Teacher Role/Learning Through Play	Two Session
*Involving Parents in Your Program	One Session
*Preventing Staff Burnout	One Session



Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	111
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	36
Number of Training Sessions Offered	17

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 36 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 2 providers and Allendale County School District Pre-K teachers and 136 children
- ✓ 25.5 hours of certified training and four hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 4 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our Training partners!

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)
 Allendale County School District
 ABC Child Care Program
 County of Allendale

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 Allendale 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.

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

- 100% ... Single parent home
- 97% ... receive assistance from SNAP
- 24% ... exposed to substance abuse
- 24% ... exposed to domestic violence

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

Allendale County First Steps Child Care Scholarship program integrates with its Parents as Teachers.

Becoming part of Allendale County First Steps Programs is one of the BEST gifts I've received!

Porshay

I was able to keep my job after receiving a scholarship.



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	19
Providers Served	1

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 19 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 4 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 23 connections for families to services such as child care, housing authority assistance, and one stop employment service
- ✓ Supported one (1) small businesses in Allendale County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 12 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as parent involvement, family literacy, and discipline at early ages

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- South Carolina Department of Social Service
- ABC Child Care

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



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 2017

Children Served	20
Families Served	20
Home/School Visits	120

**CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*



Great program, the activities are family time!

Racheal

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of the parents took their child to the county library
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 60%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 70% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in counting, identifying numbers and letters, writing their name
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 75% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education in the areas of reading and hands on activities.

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Allendale County School District
Coastal Community Foundation
Kaplan Early Learning Company
EdVenture Children's Museum
WACH Fox 57

Like us on Facebook!

Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

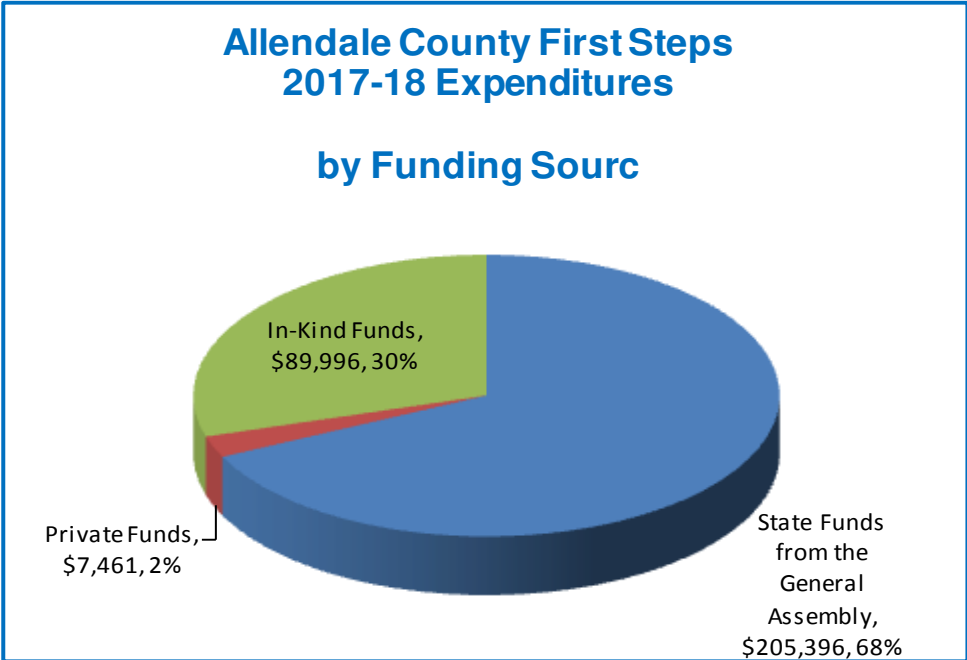


Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an *evidence-informed* program.



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$302,855

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 47%

**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	\$99,977	\$0	\$3,132	\$8,995	\$112,104	37%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,345	\$0	\$2,947	\$791	\$7,083	2%
Child Care Training	\$5,128	\$0	\$600	\$45,160	\$50,888	17%
Child Care Scholarships	\$49,000	\$0	\$0	\$9,800	\$58,800	19%
Program Support	\$32,044	\$0	\$582	\$12,960	\$45,586	15%
Administrative Support	\$15,903	\$0	\$201	\$12,290	\$28,394	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$205,397	\$0	\$7,462	\$89,996	\$302,855	

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

Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged \$1,193,712 from sources outside of state government. That's 36 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Allendale 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*)

Coastal Community Foundation: \$5,000

Allendale County School District: \$3,200

Fundraiser/Private Donors: \$300



In-Kind Support

Allendale County School District

County of Allendale

Town of Allendale

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

SC Department of Social Service ABC
Scholarship Program

Private Donor

How your support helps children in Allendale County:

- ✓ \$35 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$30 provides snacks (drinks, chips, cookies) to low-income families attending a parenting workshop.
- ✓ \$300 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

HOW TO GIVE: Contributions to Allendale County First Steps can be submitted to P.O. Box 236, Allendale, SC 29810.

Please make checks payable to Allendale County First Steps

Save the Date!

List of Allendale County First Steps upcoming events:

- Annual Meeting will be held on December 30, 2018 in the James Brandt Building Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Valentine's Celebration will kick off January 7, 2019. Contact the office at 803-702-9010 for additional information

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

Allendale County First Steps, No One Else Like It!

Parents as Teachers /Scholarship

Participating in Allendale First Steps programs has been very educational for me. I have learned so much, especially how to communicate better with my daughter. We have come a long way, because of Allendale First Steps.

I needed child care so I could go work. When I received my voucher, I also had the pleasure of participating in their parenting program. I was already involved in my daughters life; but I became more aware of little things that I normally wouldn't pay attention to. For example, instead of me giving her something to play with, I'm now letting her show me to what she wants to do. This opens up communication to discuss what she is doing. I thank God for Allendale First Steps and all the help they have given me.

Brina



Hello my name is Chasity and I participate in the PAT program. My parent educator is Mrs. Robinson. She is the best. My daughter has some developmental delays and requires special attention. With First Steps involvement, my daughter has assessments every six months and during my home visits, we engage in activities to help improve her language, fine motor skills and social emotional growth. Oh yeah, we are connected to BabyNet and things are really well.

Thank you First Steps, I'll continue to sing your praises.

First Steps Partnership Board

Working Together to Achieve Success!

Parents As Teachers, Scholarships, Countdown to Kindergarten

Allendale County First Steps Annual Secret Santa program was a bigger success this year. Along with our community partners, we provided Christmas gifts for thirty-three (33) families participating in our parenting program and fourteen (14) additional families from the community. We also assisted with providing Christmas gifts to the Department of Social Service families. Because of teamwork and support from our collaborating partners, these families were truly blessed and had a very happy holiday.

Our partnership also sponsored a fish fry to raise funds to help with cost of child care and the purchase of book for our parent educators to leave in the home after each visit. Our collaborating partners supported us by purchasing/selling tickets and encouraging their colleagues and co-workers to support our efforts.

Our Countdown to Kindergarten summer program, a partnership with Allendale County School District, allowed twenty (20) children to participate. The children and families completed this six week home visiting program, which better prepares them to enter into kindergarten. They also attended a celebration at Edventure Musuem in Columbia.

Allendale County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Evelyn Smith-Smart, Chair	Rertired Educator	Legislative Appointee
Theresa Kennedy, Vice Chair	Counselor	FamilyEducation
Bess Armstrong	Supervisor, Librarian	County Library
Bianca Bradley	Bank Teller	Parent of a Young Child
Tom Carter, Jr	Government	Legislative Appointee
Mark Lott	Community Leader	Philanthropic
John Murdaugh	Owner, There you go Transportation	Entrepreneur
Nicole Smith	Director	DHEC
Gloria Smith	Supervisor	OCAB
Walter Tobin	Interim Superintendent	School District
Marzella Washington	Teacher	Pre-Kindergarten
Edna Youmans	Director, Little New Steps Child Care Center	Early Head Start

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:

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

for Allendale County First Steps:
<http://scfirststeps.org/allendale>



[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

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