

ABBEVILLE COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Parent Training

Fatherhood Initiative

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every Abbeville
County child will
arrive at
kindergarten
ready to succeed

www.acfirststeps.org

1402 Highway 72 West Greenwood, SC 29649 ♦ (864)366-0656 or (864) 388-4102 ♦ apruitt@acsdsc.org

Making A Difference in Abbeville County

Our County Partnership has had a great year in 2018. Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps started sharing office space in March 2011, and this Joint County Partnership has continued into 2018. By sharing administrative and programmatic resources across county lines, this joint venture has created a significant cost saving which can provide more for program services to children and families. We have continued to have great relationships with the Department of Social Services and the Guardian Ad Litem Programs. The *Real Fathers Are Dads* Fatherhood Initiative continues to grow and gain community support with participants, civic organizations, and churches. The Real Fathers Are Dads Program has grown into a Parent Training Program to include the Real Mothers Are Moms Program, so mothers and fathers receive services. We also have a great relationship with The Social Change Initiative to ensure that we have additional parenting services for our families. We have provided services to over 520 participants since our inception in 2008. The Fatherhood Initiative and Parents as Teachers Program work jointly to include the entire family. The father has been the missing component for many years with our programs, and we have found the missing component. By using the holistic approach and working with the entire family, we are starting to see change happen. Other agencies and partners in our community are starting to see change and want to be a part of this initiative. We also continue to partner with Lander University and Erskine College's Education Department to provide Early Childhood Conferences each year. We were able to provide quality child care trainings with approved Certified Trainers to facilities serving more than 509 children. Community Partnerships are continuing to expand to provide services to the most at risk children in Abbeville County.

Abbeville County First Steps
Angela S. Pruitt,
Executive Director

OUR MISSION:
To provide quality services
and support for Abbeville
County families with children
newborn to six.

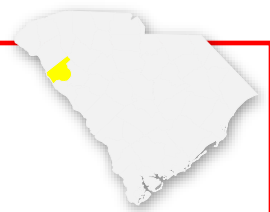
County Programs

Fatherhood Initiative
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training

State Programs





Early Head Start
First Steps 4k





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 Abbeville County.

How are Abbeville 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?
1,250 are under age 5	0 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	3 licensed child care centers
24.6% live in poverty	51 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	1 licensed group/family homes
14.4% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	51 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	16% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
8.7% low birthweight babies	67 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	0 providers are rated B or higher by A B C Quality
30% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	3 were served by 	26 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 Abbeville County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- 1.** Provide high comprehensive parenting programs
- 2.** Provide high quality comprehensive parenting programs that are inclusive of Fathers
- 3.** Provide high quality trainings for child care providers and early childhood educators
- 4.** Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services
- 5.** Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families

THE IMPACT: Comprehensive quality services assist families with school readiness.

In 2017-18, Abbeville County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **41 children** and **51 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
- ✓ **10 staff** working in **20** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 40 children ages 0-5 in their care**
- ✓ **350 books** to spark the love of reading for 350 children

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:

Abbeville School District (220 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	20%	29%	51%
Language&Literacy	23%	49%	28%
Mathematics	33%	51%	16%
Physical Dev&WB	24%	25%	52%
OVERALL	21%	49%	30%

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,
- 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 Abbeville County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

The KRA data suggests that too few children in Abbeville are prepared for school success. The partnership is working to address this need with an intensive focus on families through our Fatherhood and Parents as Teachers programs and by providing the county’s child care workforce with high-quality professional development.

Parents as Teachers

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. **Monthly workshops provided**
2. **Individualized sessions provided**
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

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

- 99.5% ... live in poverty
- 15% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 75% ... were teen parents



This program has assisted my children with fine and gross motor skills, as well as, cognitive abilities. It has assisted me with goal planning for our future.

-Kelly

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	47
Children Served	51
Total Home Visits	529
Hours Spent Serving Families	543
KIPS Gain	19

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 529 home visits per family.
- ✓ Identified and addressed 94.1% connections for families to services such as Adult Education, Employment Opportunities, and Project Hope.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with an increase gain of 19 points with KIPS to Interactive Parenting Scale.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing.

Thank you to our PAT partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville County DSS
- Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Greenwood County First Steps

Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Fatherhood Initiative

Program Description:

Real Fathers Are Dads is an evidence-based, group-based program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. The Real Fathers Are Dads Fatherhood Initiative has been in operation since 2008.

1. **Monthly workshops provided**
2. **Individualized sessions provided**
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Real Fathers Are Dad’s Fatherhood Initiative has made a difference with communication with my family.

-Ryan

Abbeville First Steps serves families in greatest need.

- 99.5% ... live in poverty
- 15% ... didn’t graduate from high school
- 75% ... were teen parents

Real Fathers Are Dads by the Numbers, 2017-18

Families Served	24
Children Served	24
Total Group Hours Completed	36
Total Individualized Hours Completed	7

This year, our Real Fathers Are Dads program:

- ✓ Averaged 36 classes offered and approximately 25 people attended each class.
- ✓ Identified and addressed 95% connections for families to services such the Department of Social Services, Guardian Ad Litem Program, and Cornerstone.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices: Increased scores with Social Support, Concrete Support, Family Functioning, and Parenting Skills with the Protective Factors Survey results.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing over 150 books.

Thank you to our Fatherhood Partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville County DSS
- Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Greenwood County First Steps
- Abbeville Civic Center
- Abbeville Presbyterian Church



Parent Training

Program Description:

Group and individualized sessions are offered through Parent Training. Group-based sessions are offered weekly and individualized sessions are offered as needed. Clients must complete a total of 12 sessions to receive a certificate of program completion. The Parent Training Model is currently based on the Strengthening Families Program for families with children 3 years and up, and The Nurturing Parenting Program model for children 0-3 years of age. This program is operated in-house.

Parenting Groups have been an asset to my family. These groups have assisted me with relationship building skills with my family, and now to deal with discipline.

-Mattie

Program Components:

1. **Monthly Parenting Groups** are offered to men and women
2. **Individualized sessions** are offered
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Parent Training:

Families Served	15
Children Served	15
One-on-One Clients Visits	31
One-on-One Clients Hours	31
Number of Sessions	31

This year, our Parent Training program:

- ✓ Averaged 31 classes offered and approximately 15 people attended each class.
- ✓ Identified and addressed connections with the Department of Social Services, the Guardian ad Litem Program, Cornerstone, and Beckman Mental Health services.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with increased scores in Social Support, Concrete Support, Family Functioning, and Parenting Skills.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing over 150 books to families.

Thank you to our Parent Training Partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville DSS
- Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Greenwood County First Steps
- Abbeville Civic Center
- Abbeville Presbyterian Church

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.

I really enjoy the conferences at Lander University.
 -Prissy

**Training Sponsored by
 Abbeville County First Steps, 2017-18**

Topic:	Sessions:
Growth and Development	2
Child Guidance	2
Curriculum	5
Special Needs	2
Professional Development	2
Program Administration	1
Health and Safety	2

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	99
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	50
Number of Training Sessions Offered	24

This year, our Training program provided:

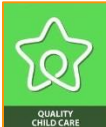
- ✓ 99 early childhood staff with high quality training impacting providers.
- ✓ 18 hours of certified training and 6 hours of registered trainings.

Thank you to our Training partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville DSS
- Guardian Ad Litem Program
- Greenwood County First Steps
- Lander University

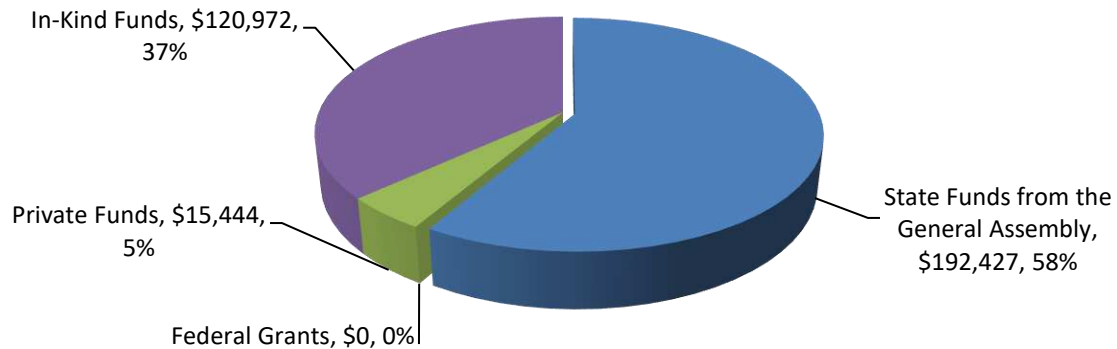
Evidence of Effectiveness:

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



Financial Impact

Abbeville County First Steps 2017-18 Expenditures by Funding Source



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$291,789

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 42%

*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	\$108,900	\$0	\$0	\$71,754	\$180,654	62%
Fatherhood Initiative	\$25,288	\$0	\$6,791	\$0	\$32,079	11%
Parent Training	\$23,566	\$0	\$7,104	\$0	\$30,670	11%
Child Care Training	\$7,675	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,675	3%
Program Support	\$19,740	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19,740	7%
Administrative Support	\$20,854	\$0	\$118	\$0	\$20,972	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$206,023	\$0	\$14,013	\$71,754	\$291,789	

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

Since inception, Abbeville County First Steps has leveraged \$1,229,427 from sources outside of state government. That's 35 cents for every state dollar.



Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Abbeville 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)
- Josephine Moffett Stevenson Foundation:
\$10,000
- CSX Transportation: \$2,500
- Abbeville Rotary Club: \$500
- West Carolina Telephone: \$500
- Local Donations: \$2,000

In-Kind Support

- Greenwood County First Steps
- The Social Change Initiative
- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville County Civic Center

How your support helps children in Abbeville County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$10 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop

HOW TO GIVE: Mail a donation to Abbeville County First Steps at 1402C Highway 72 West, Greenwood, SC 29649

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



First Steps Partnership Board

Abbeville County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Henry Green	Board Chair	Legislative Appointee
Daniel Crawford	Vice Chair	Non-Profit Organization
Mary Jane Trainor	Early Childhood Committee Chair	Early Childhood
Ursula Best	Secretary	Non-Profit Organization
Joe Bryson	Board Member	Faith Community
Connie Normand	Board Member	Healthcare Provider
Jane Agan	Board Member	NonProfit Organization
Rita Gamble	Board Member	Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Educator
Gail Johnson	Board Member	Legislative Appointee
Mary Elizabeth Land	Board Member	Library Appointee
Amy Glover	Board Member	GLEAMNS Appointee
Lee Logan	Board Member	Philanthropic Community
Millie Ricketts	Board Member	School District Appointee
Adrienne Padner	Board Member	Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Educator
Lou Paradis	Board Member	Business Category
Mindy Rogers	Board Member	Local Government
Mary Stackhouse	Board Member	DHEC Appointee
Amy Bohler	Board Member	Preschool Parent
Charles Costner	Finance Committee Chair	Legislative Appointee

Community Partnerships

Abbeville County First Steps Board has partnered with Greenwood County First Steps Board for many years to eliminate county lines and serve all children.

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 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.

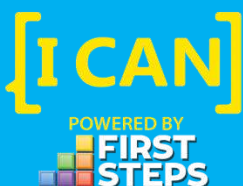


*for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K
programs in your area:*

scfirststeps.org

for Abbeville County First Steps:

www.acfirststeps.org



[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**