



90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN.



COCHISE REGION

2017 IMPACT REPORT

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

From birth to age 5, the brain develops faster than at any other time in life. And how a child's brain develops in these early years will have a lasting impact on their future.

Science has shown that children with positive, nurturing experiences in their early years go on to be healthier and more successful in school and in life. They're more ready for kindergarten. They're more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college. They're more prepared for a successful career and to be contributing members of their communities.



That's why Arizonans created First Things First – to support the development and learning of our youngest children. First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies that:



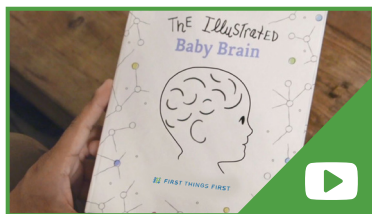
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EARLY LEARNING in child care and preschool programs.



PROMOTE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT to ensure that kids arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.



WATCH OUR VIDEO

to learn more about early childhood brain development.

<http://www.firstthingsfirst.org/why-early-childhood-matters/the-first-five-years>

EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE COCHISE REGION

“After studying the needs of young children and families in our community, the Cochise Regional Partnership Council implemented several strategies in 2017. Across the region, investments were made in Quality First, oral health and home visitation to support parents in meeting the developmental needs of their children. We've also provided affordable and accessible quality child care and worked to meet the health needs of children in the region.

Among the many accomplishments of all our partners in 2017, Quality First scholarships continued to successfully deliver quality affordable child care to young children and their families. Through this work, children from lower income families throughout the Cochise Region are getting enrolled in star-rated Quality First child care centers to become prepared for kindergarten.”

Thomas Reardon
Chair, Cochise Regional Partnership Council

2017 COCHISE REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

938 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

184 Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

1661 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

351 Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

234 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

996 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

COCHISE CHILDREN GETTING STRONG ACADEMIC START THROUGH QUALITY FIRST PROGRAM

In the Cochise Region, families can find quality child care through First Things First's signature program Quality First. The program works with child care centers and preschools to improve early learning, giving families confidence that Quality First centers will provide excellent care while preparing their child for school.

"The council focused our funds into this strategy because research shows that children accessing quality early education get a strong start to kindergarten, setting them up for academic success in elementary, high school and even college," said Melissa Avant, FTF Cochise regional director. "After reviewing local statistics on academic performance, we determined that preparing children for kindergarten was a high need in the Cochise region."

Quality First assists child care centers and home programs in implementing evidence-based best practices for child care and early education. Quality First provides coaches to teach early educators about student-to-teacher ratios, lesson planning, training for serving children with special needs and many other aspects of early education.

"The Quality First programs in Cochise are raising the standard of early education in their region," said Leslie Totten, director of the FTF Quality First program. "Providing high quality care is costly for early care and education programs, so providing scholarships to families who couldn't otherwise afford this is definitely creating opportunities for success for children coming from households with high needs."

The FTF Cochise Regional Council invested more than half their allocated funds into providing scholarships for children to attend Quality First child care centers and home programs. In fiscal year 2017, 351 children living in the Cochise region received Quality First scholarships. Since 2013, the number of child care providers in the Cochise region rated at a quality level increased from 24 percent to 65 percent as of June 2017. This year, 1,661 children in Cochise County attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.







**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

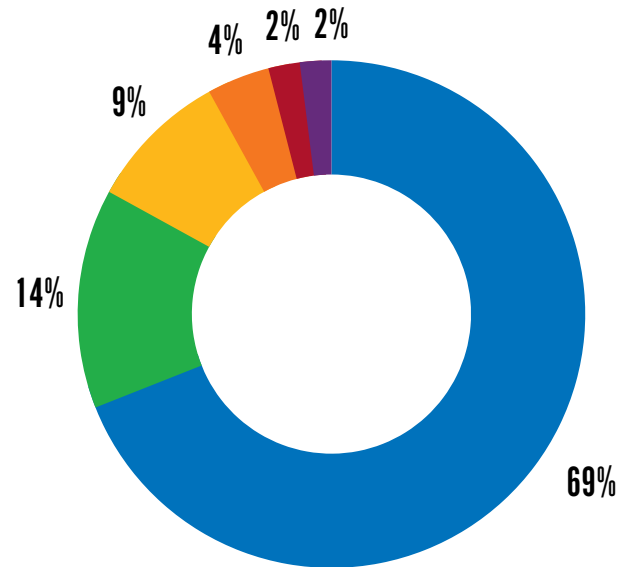
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/cochise

FIRST THINGS FIRST COCHISE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds will be used to best support the development, education and health of young children birth to age 5. First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

FY17 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

	Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$1,676,054
	Strengthening Families	\$346,254
	Preventive Health	\$217,899
	Workforce Development and Training	\$94,626
	Research and Evaluation	\$60,573
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$47,885
	TOTAL	\$2,443,292



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Thomas Reardon, *Chair* Laura Killberg, *Vice Chair*

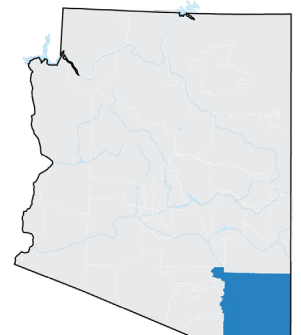
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The Cochise Region includes all of Cochise County and the northeastern corner of Pima County. The Cochise Region includes Legislative District 14. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/cochise