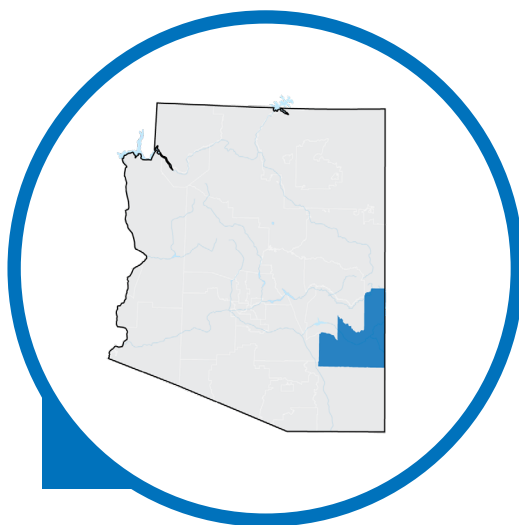




90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS
BEFORE KINDERGARTEN.

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION

2017 IMPACT REPORT



 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

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:



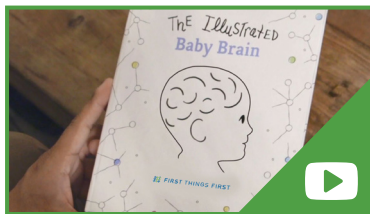
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION

"After studying the needs of young children and families in our community, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council implemented several strategies in 2017, including Quality First, home visitation and parenting outreach and awareness to address the lack of access to affordable, quality early care and education. It also addressed the lack of family supports, services and access to parenting information in order to support children's healthy growth and development.

We are proud of our success in infusing literacy throughout the region through the Imagination Library, where books are delivered each month to children, helping them to create their own home libraries. In addition, we also partner with Reach Out & Read and have children's book collections at the county court houses, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program offices and in law enforcement vehicles to spread the word of the importance of literacy in young children's lives."

Laurie Smith
Chair, Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

2017 GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

309 Community-based workshops and events for families and caregivers that focused on topics including early literacy, parenting skills and brain development.

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

26,693 Books were given to families with children ages birth to 5 years to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

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

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

READING BONDS SIBLINGS IN GRAHAM COUNTY

Trever Sanchez's favorite pastime has always been reading.

His grandmother, Cindy Stratton, remembers first being introduced to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at a Back to School Resource Fair in Graham County when Trevor was 3 years old. The Imagination Library, which is funded by First Things First in the Graham/Greenlee region, mails a free book each month to children until they turn 5.

It quickly became a highlight of Trevor's day to walk to the mailbox on the corner with his mom, Danial Sanchez. She would lift him up and help him put the key in box #3.

The new book was always read multiple times before the day was through. The books focused on topics such as sharing, self-esteem, following rules and feelings.

"One of the great things about Imagination Library is that it opened up a new world of vocabulary and topics that I would not have chosen to buy," Sanchez said.

When Trevor was 7 years old, he learned that a new baby sister was going to join his family. Sanchez pulled the book "Maple" off the shelf, and together they read about Maple's experience in getting a new baby sister.

Trever took his role as a big brother very seriously from the start. He began reading books to his sister in Mom's tummy every night while he was waiting for her to be born. The first time Lillie heard her big brother's voice in the room, she turned her head to find the voice that had become so familiar to her in utero.

From that day, Trevor and Lillie have been best friends.

"Reading is their special thing," Sanchez said. "It's what bonds them together."



**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

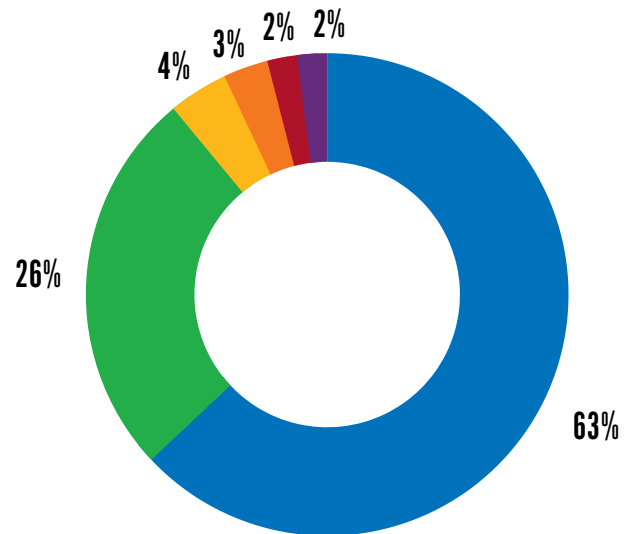
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/graham-greenlee

FIRST THINGS FIRST GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Graham/Greenlee 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	\$579,272
Strengthening Families	\$236,655
Parent and Community Awareness	\$35,577
Workforce Development and Training	\$27,000*
Research and Evaluation	\$20,695
Preventive Health	\$19,515
TOTAL	\$918,714



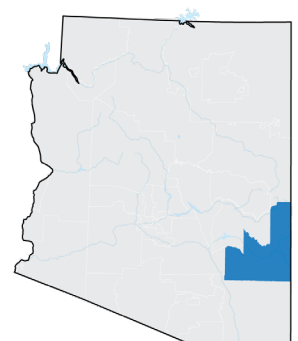
*SFY2017 Data Reports reflect the statewide percentage expended which is 60 percent or \$16,163. The \$27,000 reflects the actual amount spent for the Graham/Greenlee Region in FY2017.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Laurie Smith, Chair	JoAnn Morales, Vice Chair	
Kacey Ekman	Susan Norton	Christie Rivera
Donna McGaughey	Monica Ogas	Mark Smith
Stacy Morris	Pamela Patt	Dustin Welker

Shari Elkins,
FTF Regional Director
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928.428.0193

The Graham/Greenlee Region is defined as the combined area of the two counties, not including the lands belonging to the San Carlos Apache Tribe within Graham County. Legislative districts include: 14. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/graham-greenlee