



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



NORTHWEST MARICOPA 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:



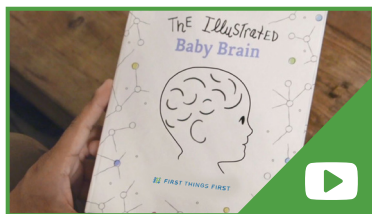
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGION

“The Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council recognizes that a number of families living in the region struggle to find services for their children who have developmental delays that do not qualify for state services. To address this, the council dedicated resources for care coordination and support for families with children with special needs.

Through the combined efforts of these two programs, parents are provided with education to address their child's developmental concerns and assistance in navigating the complex health care and social service systems. Participants in the programs enter feeling overwhelmed, and leave feeling confident in both their abilities and their child's future.”

Deborah Pischke
Chair, Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

2017 NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

56,603

Parents and caregivers accessed early childhood information and/or resources through family resource centers.

11,004

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



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

6,885

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

1,122

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

964

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

4,000

Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

KINDERGARTEN READY THROUGH PEDIATRIC CARE COORDINATION IN EL MIRAGE

Look at Gianna Cota today and she is a self-assured, motivated first grader who loves math and science, meeting new friends and learning new things.

But Gianna's confidence was not always present, according to her mom, Maria Cota. "I was concerned with Gianna's speech, specifically her ability to pronounce words...and her shyness," Cota said.

Cota was a stay-at-home mother of three when she learned about the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) Medical Home/Pediatric Care Coordination Program at the El Mirage Family Health Center.

The First Things First Northwest Maricopa Region funds the program, which uses a team-based approach between providers and families while addressing the physical, emotional and developmental growth of children from birth to age 5. Pediatric care coordination can include basic necessity, medical, behavioral and social needs for the child and their parents/caregivers.

Maria and her husband Anthony began taking Gianna to the MIHS El Mirage Family Health Center for well-child visits when she was 4 years old.

Through care coordination, Gianna's parents, healthcare provider and dedicated pediatric care coordinator agreed that Gianna should be in the Raising a Reader program, an eight-week early literacy program.

After an initial slow four weeks, family and staff began to see dramatic improvement in Gianna's speech and her confidence in social settings. Not long after the program ended, Gianna entered kindergarten.

"Gianna was comfortable connecting with her teacher," Cota said. "As a mom, it really gave me a sense of confidence knowing we were supporting her and that she was ready for this next step."



**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

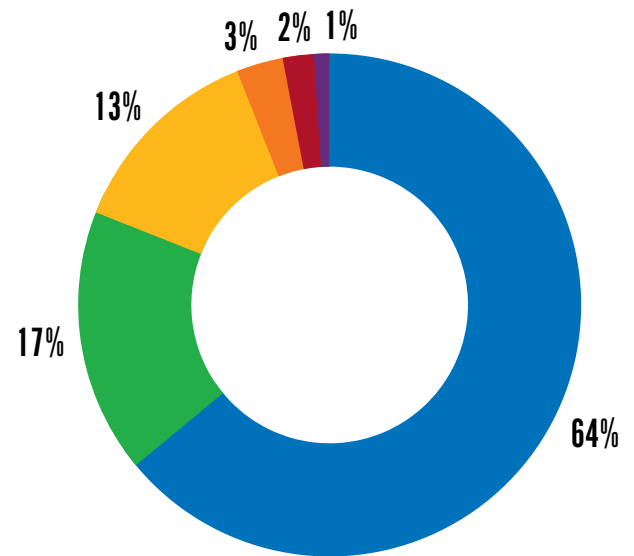
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/northwest-maricopa

FIRST THINGS FIRST NORTHWEST MARICOPA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Northwest Maricopa 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	\$6,091,657
Strengthening Families	\$1,632,352
Preventive Health	\$1,269,764
Research and Evaluation	\$247,545
Parent and Community Awareness	\$161,696
Coordinating Support	\$128,206
Workforce Development and Training	\$47,799
TOTAL	\$9,579,018



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Deborah Pischke, *Chair* Jannelle Radoccia, *Vice Chair*

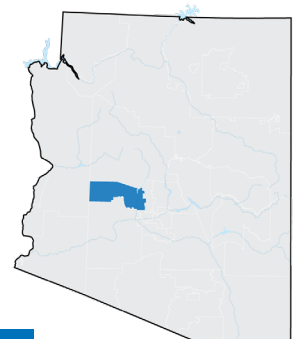
Patrick Contrades Margaret Morales James Scott

Chuck N. Fitzgerald Fran Pearson Lynda Vescio

Erin Hart Stephen Poling

Christina Lyons,
FTF Regional Director
clyons@firstthingsfirst.org
602.771.4961

The Northwest Maricopa Region lies entirely in Maricopa County and is densely populated in the east, but very sparsely populated in the west. It includes: six incorporated cities and towns – Peoria, El Mirage, Glendale, Surprise, Wickenburg and Youngtown; several unincorporated places – Aguila, Morristown, Sun City, Sun City West, Waddell and Wittmann; as well as small parts of the city of Phoenix. The Northwest Maricopa Region includes Legislative Districts 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/northwest-maricopa