



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



PHOENIX NORTH 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:



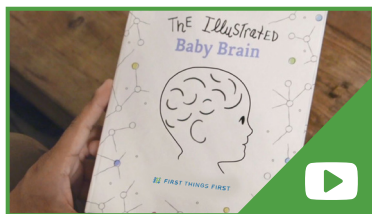
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 PHOENIX NORTH REGION

“The top three issues in the Phoenix North Region are access to quality child care, resources for parents and support for families facing multiple challenges. The council funds several strategies including Quality First, home visitation and family resource centers to address these needs.

In 2017, partners in the region provided support to families in many ways. Of particular note is the work of the family resource centers that are geographically dispersed throughout the region. At locations, such as the Washington Resource Information Center, families are provided educational opportunities, information and referrals to other services to assist them with healthy child development.”

Cindy Quenneville
Chair, Phoenix North Regional Partnership Council

2017 PHOENIX NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

27,444 Parents and caregivers accessed early childhood information and/or resources through family resource centers.

6,370 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

11,149 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

1,343 Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

3,314 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing, and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

2,896 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

NEW PHOENIX MOM FINDS SUPPORT TO PREPARE HER CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

When Elizabeth Goings first moved to Phoenix with her husband, she did not have a lot of options for her young son, Joshua. With limited ability to speak English and no other family or friends, it was difficult to find ways to support her son's development.

The nearby Washington Resource and Information Center in Phoenix proved to be a lifesaver for the first-time mom.

First Things First funds the one-stop center for families of kids ages birth to 5. Families and caregivers can attend parenting classes on topics such as early literacy, the importance of play for children's learning and how to deal with challenging behaviors.

Goings began attending programs with Joshua and soon, her newborn daughter Scarlet, where she saw her children begin to develop critical skills like focus and self-discipline as they listened to stories and sat still during circle time. Then she started implementing the lesson at home.

Joshua is now 7 years old and succeeding in second grade. After some encouragement from her preschool teacher, Goings decided to test Scarlet for early entrance into kindergarten, and she was accepted.

At only 4 years old, Scarlet is excelling in kindergarten and enjoying every day.

Goings is grateful that she learned that her young children learn best through high quality learning experiences. "There is always something new to learn," she said. "Wow! It's been worth it, the time we have invested. Scarlet loves school. Every day she comes home so happy about it."



**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

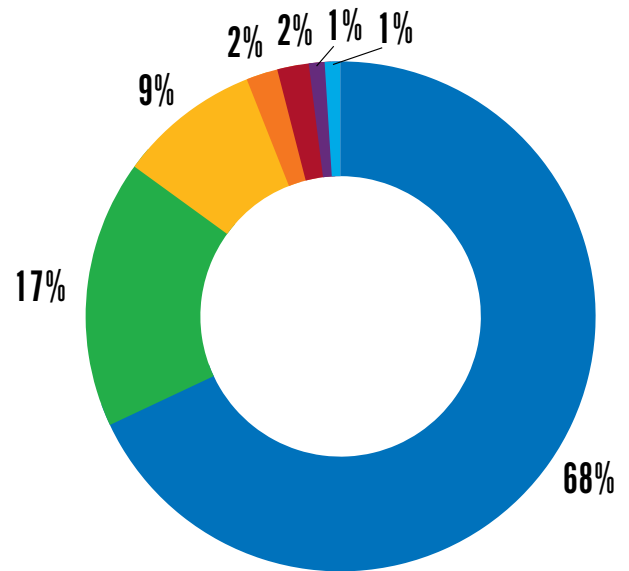
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/phoenix-north

FIRST THINGS FIRST PHOENIX NORTH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Phoenix North 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	\$9,589,153
Strengthening Families	\$2,455,161
Preventive Health	\$1,249,574
Research and Evaluation	\$355,019
Workforce Development and Training	\$238,535
Parent and Community Awareness	\$190,502
Coordinating Support	\$128,168
TOTAL	\$14,206,111

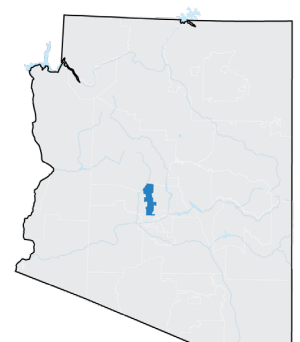


COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cindy Quenneville, *Chair* Wendy Resnik, *Vice Chair*
 Lyn Bailey Connie Robinson Kathryn Wauters
 Tyron Ivy Ana Stigsson
 Sarah Krahenbuhl Toby Urvater

Karen Yearwood,
 FTF Regional Director
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The Phoenix North Region is primarily the city of Phoenix north of Thomas Road. The region also includes the unincorporated communities of Anthem and New River to the north. Note that the Phoenix neighborhoods of Ahwatukee and Paradise Valley Village are assigned to the East Maricopa Region, and some Phoenix neighborhoods adjacent to Glendale are assigned to the Northwest Maricopa Region. The Phoenix North Region includes Legislative Districts 1, 15, 20, 23, 24, 28 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/phoenix-north