



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



PHOENIX SOUTH 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:



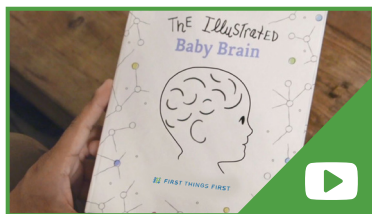
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 SOUTH REGION

“After studying the needs of young children and families in our community, the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council’s goals for 2017 were to increase the number of, and access to, quality programs serving children, provide early childhood information and support for families, and influence public policy through advocacy and awareness. The council has commissioned several strategies to accomplish these goals. They include Quality First, Quality First scholarships, home visitation, family resource centers and community awareness.

The council has seen improvement in the quality of early child care centers in our region. In June 2013, 14 percent of the Quality First centers in the region were rated three stars or above. Today, 56 percent of the centers enrolled in the program are three to five star-rated centers. The increase in quality ratings demonstrates a return on the council’s investment. The council is extremely proud of this accomplishment.”

Karen Stewart
Chair, Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

2017 PHOENIX SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

19,916 Parents and caregivers accessed early childhood information and/or resources through family resource centers.

7,728 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

8,676 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

1,327 Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

9,866 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing, and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

8,531 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

PHOENIX BOY GETS STRONG FOUNDATION FROM HOME VISITATION PROGRAM

After Porsche Brown gave birth to her first child, Zaire, she remembered taking him home and being extremely nervous about being a first time parent. Even the basics, like feeding him and knowing what to do if he got sick, were intimidating.

In the midst of her excitement and nervousness, Brown remembered being introduced to First Things First at the hospital. The FTF Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council, the region where Brown lives, funded a program that helps moms of newborns. For Brown, getting involved with the program seemed like a logical step to be the best teacher and caregiver to her child.

Brown contacted Healthy Families, a home visitation program, which sends a family support specialist to visit the mother throughout the pregnancy and continues monthly visits until age 5.

The home coach helps parents learn how to make the home a safe place for the baby, build a support system and get connected to health care, child care, job training and other supportive services.

As Brown participated in the program, she watched Zaire develop rapidly. The home coach encouraged singing and reading times. Brown developed confidence as a mother as she saw major development in Zaire's motor skills, speech and his overall social interaction as he developed from a tiny baby into a 2-year-old toddler.

He soon started using complex sentences when he spoke to her. When Zaire was almost age 3, he began to read from the book "Good Night Moon". Now about to start second grade, Zaire is reading at a fourth grade level. Zaire said his favorite subject in school is reading.

Brown attributes much of Zaire's success to the foundation that was established from the home visits with Healthy Families that prepared Zaire to become "ready for school and set for life."



**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

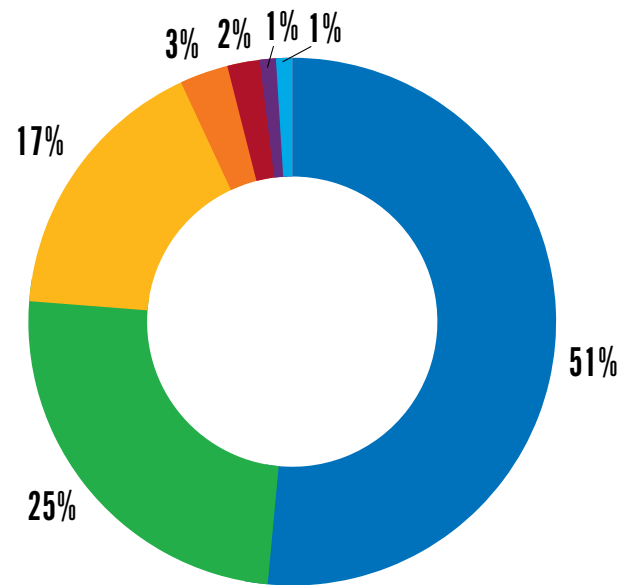
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/phoenix-south

FIRST THINGS FIRST PHOENIX SOUTH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The FTF Phoenix South 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. FTF 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	\$8,710,554
Strengthening Families	\$4,123,299
Preventive Health	\$2,874,204
Research and Evaluation	\$445,865
Workforce Development and Training	\$298,564
Parent and Community Awareness	\$190,594
Coordinating Support	\$128,168
TOTAL	\$16,771,247



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Karen Steward, *Chair* Jessica Jarvi, *Vice Chair*

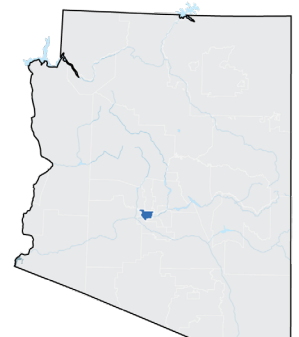
Joyce Harper Angela Rodgers Jeremy Wood

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The Phoenix South Region is primarily the southern part of the city of Phoenix. Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council provides services in the city of Phoenix, south of Thomas Road, but also including the communities of Maryvale, north of Thomas (full ZIP code areas of 85031 and 85033 and the city of Phoenix portion of 85037). The region does not include Ahwatukee. The Phoenix South Region includes Legislative Districts 19, 24, 27, 29 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



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