



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



PIMA 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:



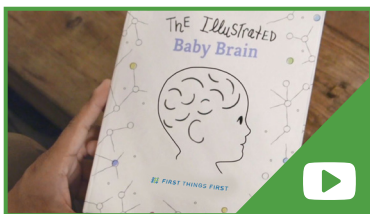
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 PIMA NORTH REGION

“The Pima North Regional Partnership Council identified our top three issues as poverty, school readiness and an educated early learning workforce. To address these issues, we supported both Quality First child care agencies to raise the standards for early learning and also Quality First scholarships for children. In 2017, we also funded home visitation programs that taught parents pertinent child development strategies. Finally, professional development and communities of practice were also funded to ensure that preschool teachers would continue to develop.

Our work has successfully supported eight communities of practice throughout five distinct regions in southern Arizona. Our council helped leverage federal funds to support the Nurse Family Partnership, enabling us to work with many more families. This year, our council continued to partner with multiple elected officials, giving us the opportunity to promote awareness of the need for early childhood education in Arizona.”

Marcia Klipsch
Chair, Pima North Regional Partnership Council

2017 PIMA NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

12,824 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

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

650 Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

6,902 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

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

QUALITY FIRST PRESCHOOL HELPS SIBLINGS BE CONFIDENT IN ACADEMICS AND SOCIAL SKILLS

Stephanie Carl faced hard times in 2013 when she found herself raising her children on her own.

"I had been a stay-at-home mom, taking care of the kids while my husband worked," Carl said. "I suddenly found myself needing to figure out how to get back to work, so I could support my family. I needed to find child care for my two youngest kids."

She began by connecting with the Quality First website. Quality First is a signature program of First Things First, which partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona. Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training for teachers to expand their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

Carl found a Quality First scholarship and enrolled her 6-month-old daughter and 2-year-old son in the Sunshine Preschool in Tucson. There, Carl and her children found supporting resources to encourage learning outside the classroom.

"Sunshine Preschool had a lending library from Make Way for Books," Carl said. "My children and I read all the time. Learning about early literacy and learning has caused me to shift my priorities as a parent. I have a broader knowledge of how to support my family at different stages and now I can prioritize my time with my children better."

As her youngest son entered first grade this year and her daughter began her final year in preschool, Carl said preschool prepared her children for kindergarten.

"Preschool gave them confidence, academics and exposure to a classroom environment," she said. "They learned social and emotional skills like how to share books, take turns, be in a group, and follow directions. They are ready to be successful in school!"









**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

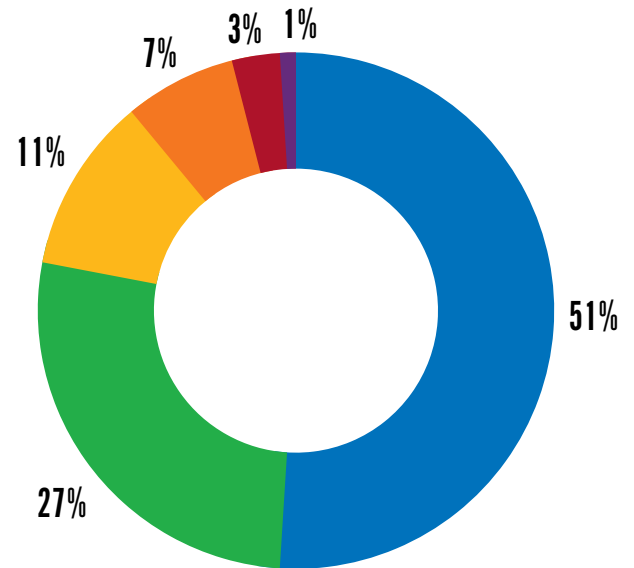
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/pima-north

FIRST THINGS FIRST PIMA NORTH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Pima 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	\$4,715,801
	Strengthening Families	\$2,522,167
	Workforce Development and Training	\$1,307,528
	Preventive Health	\$623,352
	Research and Evaluation	\$266,835
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$83,191
	TOTAL	\$9,248,874



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marcia Klipsch, *Chair* Annabel Ratley, *Vice Chair*

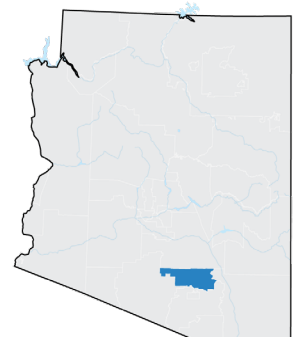
Linda Arzoumanian Peg Harmon Amber Jones

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The Pima North Region is defined as the northern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation. The region includes the city of South Tucson, the towns of Oro Valley and Marana, and the unincorporated communities of Catalina Foothills, Tanque Verde, Picture Rocks, Catalina, Avra Valley and Nelson. It does not include the Redington area in the northeastern corner of Pima County, which is assigned to the Cochise Region. The Pima North Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



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