

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



PINAL 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:



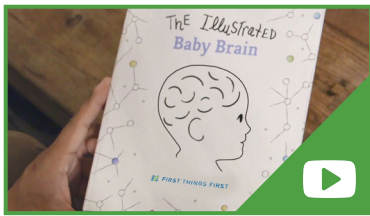
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 PINAL REGION

“The primary issues in the Pinal Region are the lack of access to affordable, quality child care and sufficient services and resources for parents. Our council employs several strategies to address these needs, including service coordination, Quality First, home visitation and parenting education. We believe things get solved when you get involved.

One significant accomplishment in 2017 was the Wellness Passport created by the Pinal Early Childhood Coalition, as part of our service coordination strategy. The passport allows sharing of information between families, medical, education and other providers, ensuring that everyone in the child's life has accurate information to make the best choices for that child. This gives a child a continuum of care that supports health and early learning.”

Kameron Bachert
Chair, Pinal Regional Partnership Council

2017 PINAL REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

1,778 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

435 Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

1,939 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

2,694 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing, and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

2,533 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

HOME VISITATION PROGRAM HELPS MARICOPA BOY BE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

The test confirmed the good news that La Tasha Cartwright already knew.

Josiah had scored high on the kindergarten readiness test, called the Bracken School Readiness Assessment, which measures pre-academic readiness skills. The test is part of the Easter Seals Blake Foundation's Parents as Teachers program, which First Things First funds in the Pinal region.

It had been three years since Cartwright enrolled Josiah in the program. At the time, she had decided to quit her job and care for Josiah, then age 2, at home and home school her older daughter.

Parents as Teachers provides voluntary, in-home visits from a parent coach who gives parenting information, support and encouragement to help young children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life from ages birth to 5.

"I wanted my children to love learning and become self-educators," Cartwright said.

Parent Educator Kim Alvey showed Cartwright how to scaffold her son's learning.

"When Josiah mastered one thing, mom would make the activity more challenging," Alvey said. "For example, after Josiah learned his letters, mom would teach him the letter sounds. Once the letter sounds were mastered, mom started teaching him words. Josiah was now able to read."

Both mom and parent educator saw much improvement in all developmental domains. That's why when Josiah took the kindergarten readiness test earlier this year, both mom and parent educator were happy to know that he was ready for kindergarten success.









**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

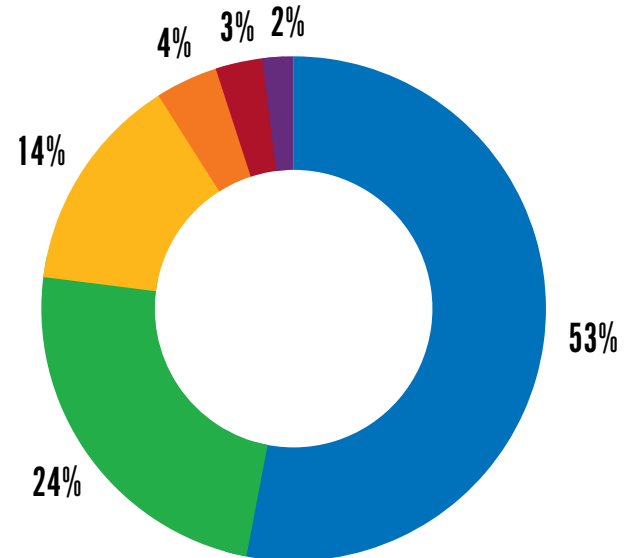
Grandparents Rise to the Challenge
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/pinal

FIRST THINGS FIRST PINAL REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The FTF Pinal 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 ages birth to 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	\$2,628,853
	Strengthening Families	\$1,202,860
	Preventive Health	\$715,898
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$194,710
	Research and Evaluation	\$132,730
	Coordinating Support	\$99,100
	TOTAL	\$4,974,151



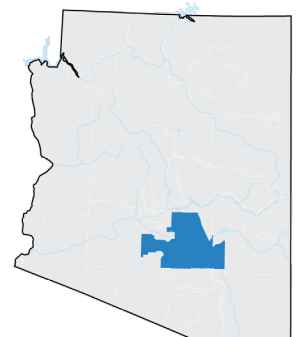
COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kameron Bachert, *Chair* Michael Kintner, *Vice Chair*

Ashlea Anderson	Lillian Downing	Adam Saks
Mariano Baca	Stuart Fain	Jan Vidimos
Jill Broussard	Christina Jenkins	

Shannon Fontes,
FTF Regional Director
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The Pinal Region is defined as Pinal County, not including the lands belonging to the Gila River Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation or the San Carlos Apache Tribe. The region does include the land belonging to the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The Pinal Region includes Legislative Districts 8 and 11. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/pinal