



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



**SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA
INDIAN COMMUNITY 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:



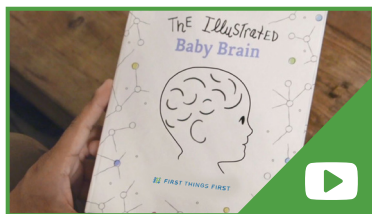
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBE REGION

“After studying the needs of young children and families in our area, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council implemented a strategy for parenting outreach and awareness that provides three types of parenting classes in the region. Other work includes working with partners to support early education professionals with the goal of improving the quality of child care provided in the region.

We have had some successful collaboration this past year. One success was with the local college where participants can obtain college credits while attending early education classes. We also collaborated with the high school to provide parenting classes for teen parents after school, which we see as an asset to the community.”

Christine McIntier
Chair, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

2017 SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 87** Parents and caregivers attended workshops to learn about parenting and early childhood and supportive resources.
- 17** Parents and caregivers accessed early childhood information and/or resources through family resource centers.
- 298** Books getting into the homes of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a home distribution program.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- 12** Early childhood professionals received college scholarships to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- 60** Early childhood professionals received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teacher-child interactions.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

- 239** Food boxes distributed to families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers to meet food insecurity needs.

PARENTING EDUCATION CLASS HELPS MOM PREPARE HER DAUGHTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

Sierra Conger lived in multiple foster and group homes during her childhood. She never experienced a sense of family, so when she found herself pregnant at age 20 with her daughter Pequena, she didn't know how to be a parent.

"I wanted to be the best mom to my child, so I thought taking the parenting class would be a great way to teach my child the things I wasn't taught," Conger said.

Conger enrolled in the WISH parent education program funded by the First Things First Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Region. The 10-week program covered topics such as child development, strategies for positive discipline, nutrition, literacy activities and stress management.

The class also helped Conger deal with her daughter Pequena's sometimes difficult behaviors. "Whenever she's frustrated or in a mood or when she's not listening to me, I learned that she's in survival mode, and I wait for her to calm down," Conger said.

The program also helped make reading together a fun daily activity.

"They gave out books at every class, and I read to Pequena every night," Conger said. "I think that's helped us. I know how to talk to my daughter, so she can understand what I'm saying to her."

WISH family advocate Pamela Prasher helped the family find stable housing and connected Conger to financial support, child care and a plan for pursuing her own education.

Today, Pequena is in kindergarten and doing great. Her strongest subject is math.

"If I didn't have this program, I think I would be stuck doing the old parenting ways," Conger said. "I'd be trying to find places to live and hopping around. I'm really thankful for everything they've done and helped me with."



**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

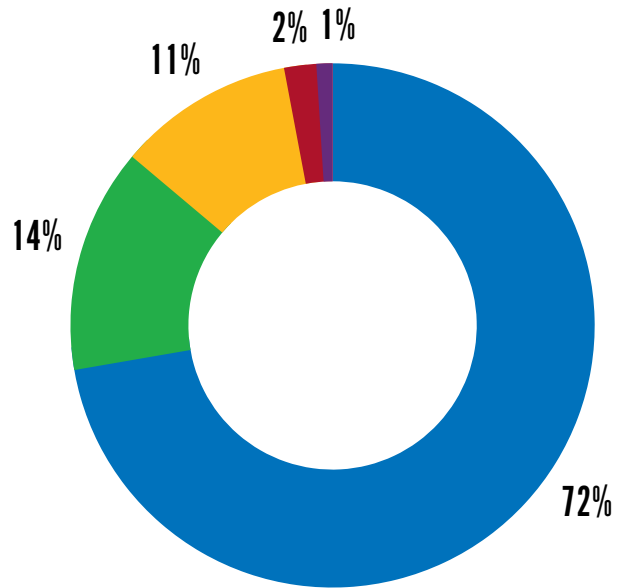
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/salt-river-pima-maricopa-indian-community

FIRST THINGS FIRST SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community 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	\$120,091
Strengthening Families	\$23,549
Workforce Development and Training	\$17,645
Parent and Community Awareness	\$2,845
Preventive Health	\$1,353
TOTAL	\$165,482



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Christine McIntier, *Chair* Kevin Poleyumptewa, *Vice Chair*

Crystal Banuelos
Deborah DeVold
Edith Eubank

Joyce Helmuth
Virginia Loring
Felicia Panana

Darlene Vinarskai,
FTF Regional Director
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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, a sovereign tribe located 15 miles northeast of Phoenix, is one of 10 Arizona tribes that have chosen to be designated as its own First Things First region. The region has the same boundaries as the Salt River Reservation and covers about 85 square miles, entirely within Maricopa County, bordering the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa and Fountain Hills. The Community is home to the Pima ("Akimel O'Odham," River People) and the Maricopa ("Xalychidom Pipaash," People who live toward the water). Legislative districts include: 26. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/salt-river-pima-maricopa-indian-community