



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



YAVAPAI 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:



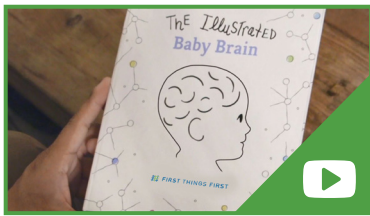
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 YAVAPAI REGION

“In the Yavapai Region, there are approximately three to five children for every one child care slot. The Yavapai Regional Partnership Council decided quality child care and access to this care is a top priority for the region. More than 35 centers and homes participated in Quality First and have access to coaching support, child care health consultation and mental health consultation.

Some of our successes in 2017 included more than 260 children receiving scholarships to attend quality early learning sites. Additional strategies implemented in our region to support families with young children included home visitation, parent education and court teams. The collaboration among our grantees and other early childhood system partners continued to provide a strong network of support for our families in the Yavapai Region.”

Sherry Birch
Chair, Yavapai Regional Partnership Council

2017 YAVAPAI REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

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

504 Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.

96 Infants and toddlers who entered the child welfare system benefited from coordinated efforts to meet their unique developmental needs.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

1,732 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

SHY PRESCOTT PRESCHOOLER BLOSSOMS INTO AVID READER AT QUALITY FIRST PRESCHOOL

Four years ago, Nick Raboy's daughter, Elly, entered Sacred Heart Catholic Preschool in Prescott with almost no experience interacting with children her own age.

"Elly gripped my hand tighter and tighter as we entered the doorway," Raboy said. "She had separation anxiety. She was very hesitant to participate in any activity for a while."

For the first few weeks of preschool, she was quiet and reserved. But she soon discovered career role-playing with costumes and colorful arts and crafts projects. These types of activities helped her interact with other students and make friends.

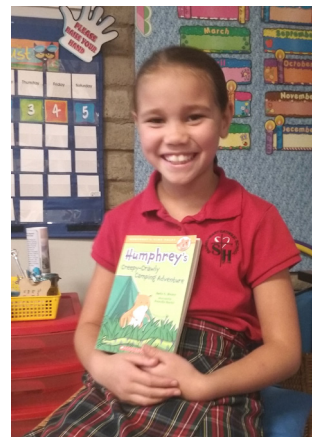
Sacred Heart participates in Quality First, a signature program of First Things First, which partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona.

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.

"We support our families by providing their children with an early childhood education that is rich in language development with a multitude of hands-on materials to explore and manipulate," said school Director Jan Richards.

Raboy credits his daughter's success to the school's participation in Quality First, and the consistency between the school's practices and his family's values.

Today, Elly is a confident second-grader who loves to read and interact with her peers. Her favorite books now are the "Humphrey's Tiny Tales" series.









**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

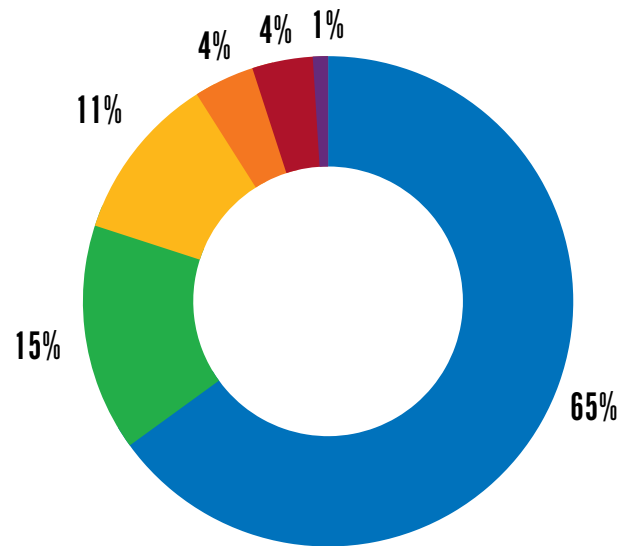
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/yavapai

FIRST THINGS FIRST YAVAPAI REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Yavapai 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	\$1,937,641
	Strengthening Families	\$460,417
	Preventive Health	\$330,797
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$126,982
	Research and Evaluation	\$105,110
	Workforce Development and Training	\$28,264
	TOTAL	\$2,989,212



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sherry Birch, *Chair*

Olga Morris, *Vice Chair*

Anne Babinsky

Stan Goligoski

Michael Reed

Patricia Bryant

James Howard

Ophelia Tewawina

Morgan Dubs

Tammy Lee

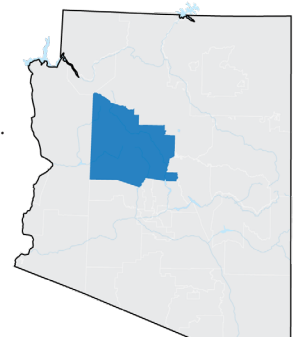
Kathy Watson

Lisa Blyth,
FTF Regional Director

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The Yavapai Region covers all of Yavapai County, plus the part of the city of Sedona that lies in Coconino County. The Yavapai-Apache Nation is included in the Yavapai Region. With 38 percent of the land owned by the U.S. Forest Service, the Yavapai Region is known for its four mild seasons, plentiful lakes, mountains and forest and small town atmosphere. The Yavapai Region includes Legislative Districts 1 and 6. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/yavapai