



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. Research shows that the quality of a child's early life experiences shape how their brain develops.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

“

Every child is different and unique. Most children will have strengths in some areas and difficulty in others. It is interesting to note that around 85 percent of children who have been exposed to an academic setting prior to kindergarten, such as preschool or playgroups, come prepared with the basic, foundational skills for a successful kindergarten experience.”

Ruth Vining

Kindergarten Teacher

Jack Daley Primary School, Thatcher School District

That's why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK



Early Childhood Funds

Allotted by FTF State Board



Local Decision-Making

Each region has 11 volunteer regional partnership council members representing their community. Based on the area's early childhood needs, each council prioritizes goals and strategies to help children birth to age 5 and their families.



28 FTF Regions

represent diverse communities across AZ

Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers

First Things First offers grant opportunities; providers implement programs and services in communities.



Community Collaborations

Regions also collaborate with organizations and entities to build a network of programs and services to better support young children.



THIS RESULTS IN MORE KIDS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

FISCAL YEAR 2018 GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few highlights of the proven programs and innovative strategies from this region.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

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

30,290 Books were given to families with children ages birth to 5 years to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

381 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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

22 Early childhood educators received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teacher-child interactions.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

ON CAMPUS CHILD CARE CENTER HELPS SAFFORD GIRL GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

As a teen mom, Ariella Garcia wanted to find excellent care for her baby, Jaidah, and continue her education.

Family and friends encouraged Garcia to enroll at Mt. Graham High School in Safford, specifically because it is an alternative high school with an on-campus child care center.

The center participates in First Things First's signature program, Quality First. This program helps centers make quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as creating learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child. The centers also engage parents about literacy and caring for their child at home.



Jaida progressed from the infant room to the toddler room where she enjoys arts and crafts, water play, dolls, blocks and

a multitude of other activities. She knows all the colors, and is learning shapes.

"She loves playing with the other children and has become very social," Garcia said.

One of the things that Ariella loves most about the center is that she can stop in and check on Jaidah any time during the day and spend a few minutes with her. It also allows her to feel more independent as a teen mom. Thanks to a Quality First scholarship, Jaida is enrolled at the center at no cost. A limited number of scholarships are available to eligible families.

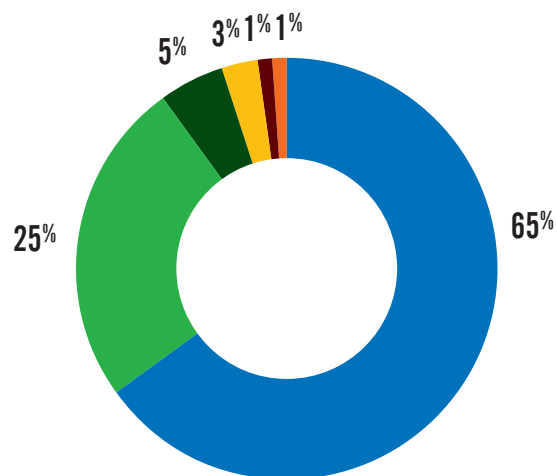
Today, Jaidah is a bubbly, curious, easy-going 3-year-old who loves Legos, dolls and snacks. Knowing her daughter was in a quality learning environment helped Garcia stay motivated in reaching her own goals. Garcia graduated high school in the top 10 percent of her class and has continued her studies at Eastern Arizona College.

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Graham/Greenlee 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.

FY18 TOTAL REGIONAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$562,424
Strengthening Families	\$226,227
Parent and Community Awareness	\$42,456
Workforce Development and Training	\$21,764
Research and Evaluation	\$17,862
Preventive Health	\$17,159
TOTAL	\$887,892



FIRST THINGS FIRST GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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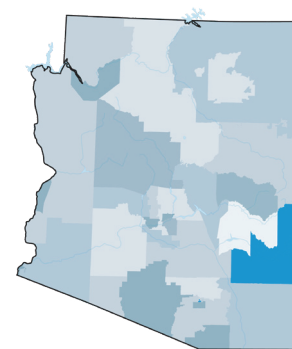
Kacey Ekman

Mark Smith

Donna McGaughey

Dustin Welker

Stacy Morris



The Graham/Greenlee Region is defined as the combined area of the two counties, not including the lands belonging to the San Carlos Apache Tribe within Graham County. Legislative districts include: 14. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Graham-Greenlee