



EARLY EXPERIENCES  
BUILD THE FOUNDATION  
FOR A LIFETIME

# NAVAJO/APACHE 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.



A head start on life builds a stronger citizen in the future. The more we can engage the brain early in life, the greater chance our students will have to become who they are capable of becoming."

**Dr. Robbie Koerperich**

Superintendent  
Holbrook Unified 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 NAVAJO/APACHE REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

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

**6,933** Children received support from trained providers to link their parents with resources to support their health and learning and deal with specific challenges, including first-time parenting, parenting a child with special needs or dealing with multiple births.



## QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

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

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



## PREVENTIVE HEALTH

**2,206** Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

**1,065** Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

## HOME-BASED QUALITY FIRST CENTER HELPS SHOW LOW CHILD BE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Mariah Tatum was looking for full-time child care for her newborn son. Chaysen was 8-weeks-old and both parents worked full-time.

"It's hard to put your trust in other people to care for your child," Tatum said. After some research, Tatum found Tracy's Child Care Center in Show Low. The home-based center has a 5-star rating, the highest available through Arizona's First Things First Quality First program.

Quality First partners with child care centers and preschools across Arizona to improve the quality of early learning programs.

"As full-time working parents, it was extremely important to have someone like Tiffany, to not only love our child like her own, but teach him as well," Tatum said. "Tracy and her staff have always gone above and



beyond when it came to making sure Chaysen was well cared for, and reaching the recommended milestones."

Chaysen received dental screenings and developmental screenings while at Tracy's.

"We watched our son reach milestones at such an early age because the teachers at Tracy's are taught and equipped with the knowledge to help children succeed," Tatum said.

The teachers at the center read to baby Chaysen daily, helped potty-train him before his second birthday, worked with him to tie his shoes, showed him how to brush his teeth and wash his hands, Tatum said.

"It has been incredible, but now to watch him be so independent and well equipped with knowledge in kindergarten is amazing," Tatum said.

Chaysen started kindergarten this year and was successful from day one.

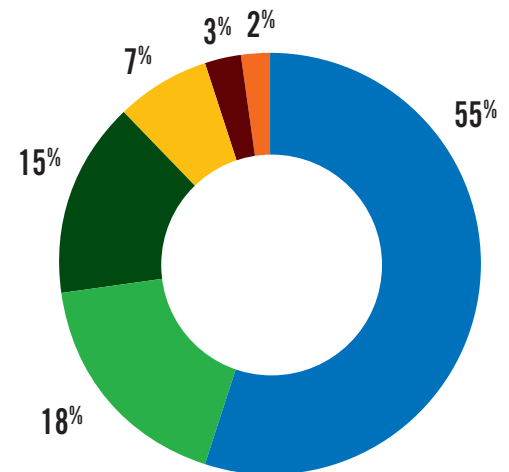
"We have learned that without quality programs like these, and people like Tiffany and Tracy, my son wouldn't be the independent, smart, healthy young boy he is," Tatum said.

# NAVAJO/APACHE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Navajo/Apache 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

Preventive Health	\$706,263
Workforce Development and Training	\$240,807
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$198,493
Parent and Community Awareness	\$81,225
Strengthening Families	\$35,221
Research and Evaluation	\$30,834
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,292,842</b>



## FIRST THINGS FIRST NAVAJO/APACHE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Byron Lewis,  
Chair

Carrie Classay,  
Vice Chair

Kate Dobler,  
FTF Regional Director

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### Members

Rachel Armstrong

Claude Endfield

Kimberly Avery

Doug Harris

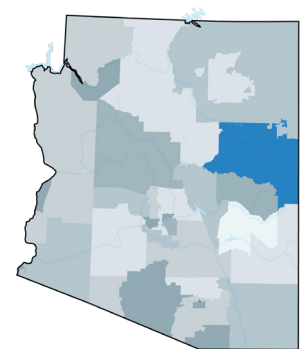
Becky Benda-Dodd

Leslie Meyer

Dave Clark

Brenda Sherwood

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The Navajo/Apache Region encompasses the central areas of Navajo and Apache Counties, excluding the lands belonging to the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe in the north and the land belonging to the White Mountain Apache Tribe in the south. The region also includes the Forest Lakes community in Coconino County, east of Heber-Overgaard. The region does not include the city of Winslow, which is in Navajo County but is assigned to the Coconino Region. The Navajo/Apache Region includes Legislative Districts 6 and 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Navajo-Apache-Region](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Navajo-Apache-Region)