



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

NAVAJO NATION 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.

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As a veteran, a community leader and a mother, I know the early years of a child's life are critical. A secure and nurturing childhood is vital to the health, success and happiness of our communities, tribes, states and greater nation. First Things First is one way we can continue to ensure each generation is better equipped than the last.”

Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai

Arizona State Senate

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 NATION REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 266** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.
- 304** Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- 692** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 229** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

- 424** Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.
- 1,182** Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

QUALITY FIRST CENTER IN FORT DEFIANCE HELPS 2-YEAR-OLD LEARN CONVERSATION AND HEALTHY EATING HABITS

Derrith Hardy was back in the workforce and looking for an infant child care center for her second child, Liam.

She learned of the Little Miss Muffet child care center, operated by the Navajo Nation Child Care and Development Fund in Fort Defiance, but was hesitant about leaving her 6-month-old in a new place. But site supervisor Al Dale put her at ease.

"It's my job right from the start to make a good impression on the parents," Dale said. "I give them a rundown of how everything works and what they can expect from us as a Quality First center," Dale said. "We talk about the support in mental health and our coaching team and how this environment will help their children get prepared for kindergarten, even as babies."

Quality First is a signature program of First Things First and 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.

At Little Miss Muffet, there is an emphasis on literacy, nutrition and the physical health of students. Each classroom is assigned a garden bed and the food they harvest is built into the curriculum at the center. Through gardening, children learn about colors, shapes, different types of food and families are taught how to prepare healthy meals together.

Liam, now 2, and the family as a whole have benefitted from the quality learning environment, his mother said.

"Liam loves the garden," Hardy said. "It's a great learning experience for him and our family. He has also developed a large vocabulary and knows how to hold a conversation and socialize with others."

The initial uncertainty Hardy felt has been replaced by an assurance that her child is developing on track and learning healthy habits.

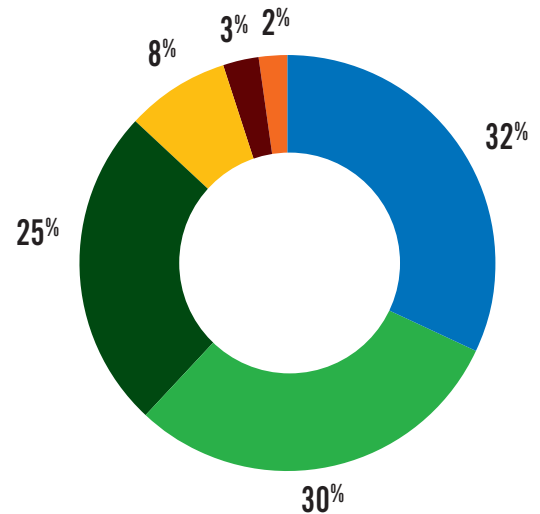
"The center is doing an amazing job helping me raise my child," she said. "I really think he is prepared to go to kindergarten."

NAVAJO NATION REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Navajo Nation 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	\$1,361,404
Preventive Health	\$1,302,772
Strengthening Families	\$1,031,489
Workforce Development and Training	\$299,688
Parent and Community Awareness	\$155,061
Research and Evaluation	\$78,070
TOTAL	\$4,228,484



FIRST THINGS FIRST NAVAJO NATION REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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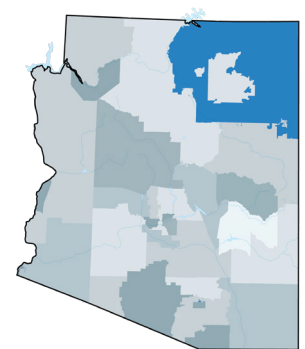
Patricia Gonnig

Paula Seanez

Valonia Hardy

Cotillion Sneddy

Yvonne Kee-Billison



The Navajo Nation Region is defined as the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation Reservation. The region covers nearly 16,000 square miles in the northeast corner of the state, stretching across Apache, Navajo and Coconino counties. The entire reservation, which dates to the Navajo Treaty of 1868, also includes lands in Utah and New Mexico. The Navajo Nation Region includes Legislative District 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Navajo-Nation