



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

PIMA NORTH 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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Research shows that the high quality birth to age 5 programs, especially for disadvantaged children, can return a 13 percent per year return on investment. Children who attend high quality preschools are three times more likely to attend college. They are also much less likely to participate in criminal activity: at age 40 they were 46 percent less likely to have been incarcerated and had a 33 percent lower rate of arrest for violent crime.”

Penelope Jacks

Chair

Strong Start Tucson

2018 Pima North Champion for Children

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 PIMA NORTH REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 9,534** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.
- 697** Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.
- 731** Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- 7,404** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 919** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

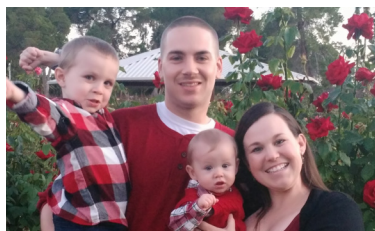
QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIP HELPS TUCSON BOY FIND A CONSISTENT DAILY ROUTINE

Courtney Silva knew quality child care was important, but worried because her family couldn't afford it.

Silva and her fiancé Robert Adams tried coordinating a schedule to care for their son, Ryan. Between Silva going to college classes and Adams' work schedule, they found themselves stressed out and struggling.

As a child, Silva attended Outer Limits School in Tucson, now a 5-star Quality First center. Quality First is First Things First's signature program that 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.

She visited the school and the owner told her the center may have a Quality First scholarship, if she qualified. When she saw the center, she knew it was the right place for her son.



The news of receiving a scholarship brought her to tears.

"It was a huge blessing for my family," Silva said. "It has allowed for my children to grow up with teachers and parents who love them and can give them the time and attention they deserve and need."

After Ryan started preschool, Silva soon noticed how important structure was. Nap schedules, meal times, reading daily- these things eased anxiety in her child. So she started a consistent schedule at home around bedtimes and meals.

"Seeing what worked at school has helped me be the best mom I can be," Silva said. "I feel supported and it has been a huge stress relief. I know the time I spend with my kids and partner is meaningful and I can be present for them."

Now that Ryan is starting kindergarten, he's getting a positive response. At his first Parent Night, Ryan's kindergarten teacher said that he is kind and helpful to the other students, and very excited to sit and listen during story time.

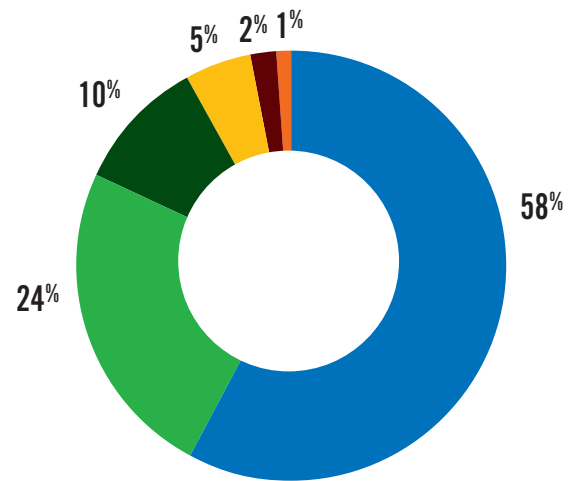
"Preschool helped prepare him for the first day of kindergarten," Silva said.

PIMA NORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Pima North 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	\$5,978,129
Strengthening Families	\$2,534,408
Workforce and Professional Development	\$979,302
Preventive Health	\$580,889
Research and Evaluation	\$204,426
Parent and Community Awareness	\$90,980
TOTAL	\$10,368,134



FIRST THINGS FIRST PIMA NORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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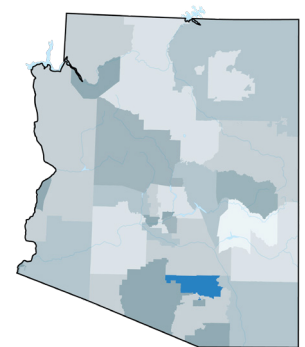
Amber Jones

Kirk Grugel Short

Wade McLean

Daniel Huff

Stefany Paredes



The Pima North Region is defined as the northern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation. The region includes the city of South Tucson, the towns of Oro Valley and Marana, and the unincorporated communities of Catalina Foothills, Tanque Verde, Picture Rocks, Catalina, Avra Valley and Nelson. It does not include the Redington area in the northeastern corner of Pima County, which is assigned to the Cochise Region. The Pima North Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-North