



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

PIMA SOUTH 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.

“

We now know that literacy is an important determinant of eventual success in school and career. In addition, higher literacy levels lead to stronger economic development in our communities. Literacy is not only important to our most precious resources – our children – it is important to overall community well-being.”

Dr. Joseph Hentges

Governor

District 5500 Rotary 2017-2018 and

2018 Pima South Champion for Children

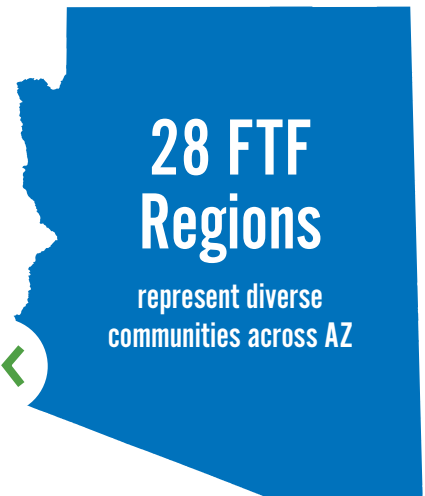
That's why Arizonans created First Things First

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.



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 SOUTH REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

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



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

3,150 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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

395 Early childhood educators attended a training or session to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

2,573 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

VAIL PRESCHOOLER BUILDS HIS PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

The first few days of preschool were rough for Logan Reller.

There were tears, said his mom, Christy Reller.

Logan had transitioned to the preschool room, after having had the luxury of his mom being one of his first preschool teachers in the toddler room at Christ Lutheran Creation School in Vail.

It took him a few days to adjust, but his new teacher, Jennifer Hook, continued to work with him to bring him out of his shell.

“This is where he learned how to develop relationships with other adults,” Reller said.

Creation School participates in the First Things First signature program, Quality First. The program works with child care centers and preschools across Arizona to improve early learning.

The different rooms in the school are filled books, quiet areas for reading, hands-on stations for learning and dress up. Outside the classroom there are goats, where the children learn how to work with the animals and a budding garden.



Hook, who is also the preschool's director, and her team of teachers work with children to develop academic and social-emotional skills.

For a student like Logan, it's the social-emotional skills that he learned in preschool that have had the most impact on his life, Reller said.

The early years are when they learn to regulate themselves, Reller said. Those type of life skills serve the children as they grow older and more responsible.

Today, Logan is almost 5 and in kindergarten. He has a best friend and can interact with different groups of friends. “You don't usually start to see those type of interpersonal skills until around first grade,” Reller said.

Logan is also problem solving on his own.

“At home, he comes up with his own solution if he has a problem with his brother,” Reller said. For example, if they both want to play with their pet bunny, Logan will suggest that his brother gets to hold the bunny for five minutes, then it's his turn.

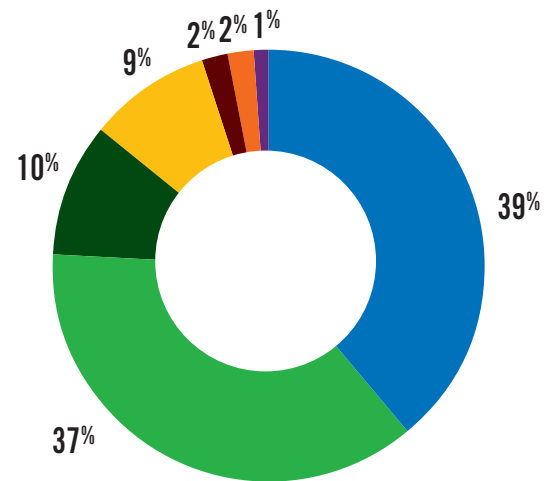
“He understands what behavior is expected of him,” Reller said.

PIMA SOUTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Pima South 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	\$2,243,118
Strengthening Families	\$2,160,788
Workforce Development and Training	\$616,786
Preventive Health	\$498,284
Parent and Community Awareness	\$129,969
Research and Evaluation	\$128,459
Coordinating Support	\$99,434
TOTAL	\$5,876,837



FIRST THINGS FIRST PIMA SOUTH REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Chair

Lynn O'Connor,
Vice Chair

Jaymie Jacobs,
FTF Regional Director

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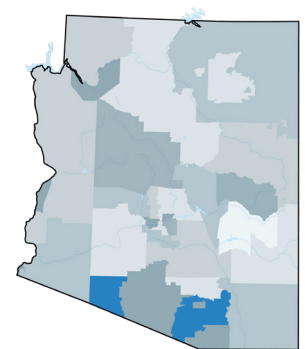
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The Pima South Region is defined as the southern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation, plus a small part of Santa Cruz County around the Amado community. The Pima South Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 4 and 14. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

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