



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

SANTA CRUZ 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.

“

The quality, competency and morality of the next – and future – generations that will constitute the very fabric of our society, may very well depend upon whether or not those inhabitants had the benefit of a nurturing, healthy and stimulating birth to age 5 experience.”

William Kirkpatrick

Vice Chair

Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council

That's why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK



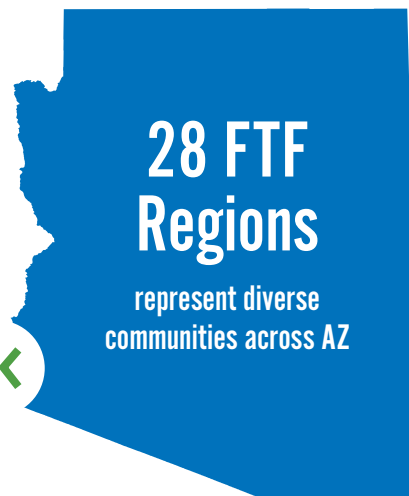
Early Childhood Funds

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 SANTA CRUZ REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

2,101 Instances a family or caregiver received early childhood information and/or resources or referrals through family resource centers.

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



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

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

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

1,671 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

QUALITY FIRST PRESCHOOL HELPS RIO RICO GIRL FALL IN LOVE WITH SCHOOL

Some might think that as the daughter of a school assistant principal, 5-year-old Ruby Lou Granillo would be all set when it came to being ready for kindergarten.

But Sam Granillo, an assistant principal at Calabasas School in Rio Rico, and his wife knew that a high-quality preschool experience would help Ruby Lou with more than academics. It would help her social and emotional development, too.

"Preschool not only set her up academically, but it set a strong foundation for socializing, which is so important at that age," Granillo said.

The parents recognized the high-quality environment in their daughter's preschool right away, starting with how the teachers interacted with the children.

"The teachers of course were friendly, but they took upon themselves to crouch down to the eye level of the kids," Granillo said. "They began building relationships and trust immediately."

It's those type of positive interactions with the adults in their lives, such as preschool teachers, that help young children make

sense of the world. Everything they see and experience shapes them.

The Calabasas preschool, where Ruby Lou attended, participates in Quality First, First Things First's signature program, which works with child care providers and preschools throughout Arizona to improve the quality of early learning for children birth to age 5.

At Calabasas, during the lunch hour, the preschoolers practiced their socializing skills through a family style lunch, where they served each other and talked about dining manners.

"Even the conversation at our dinner table was reinforced at school," Granillo said.

The program also focuses on the individual child.

"Every child has their own portfolio," Granillo said. "We knew exactly what she was learning, when and if she mastered the skill."

Ruby Lou, who turned 5 in July, finished her final year of preschool strong and is ready to start kindergarten, Granillo said.

"She's in love with school and she's got it," her father said. "She says she wants to be a teacher. That's based on her preschool experience."



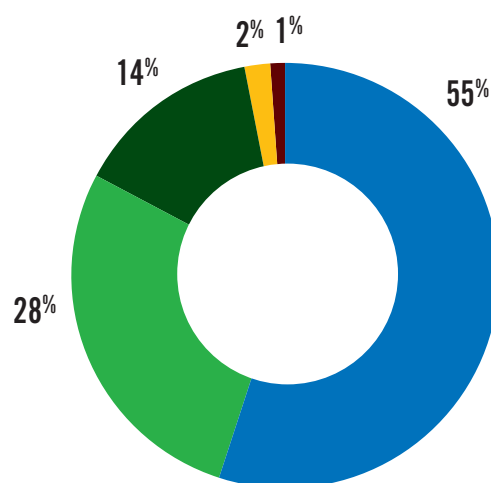
Read more local stories at firstthingsfirst.org/regions

SANTA CRUZ REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Santa Cruz 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

Strengthening Families	\$671,277
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$352,968
Preventive Health	\$171,753
Research and Evaluation	\$26,457
Parent and Community Awareness	\$23,287
TOTAL	\$1,245,743



FIRST THINGS FIRST SANTA CRUZ REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Karen Woodford,
Chair

William Kirkpatrick,
Vice Chair

Francisco Padilla,
FTF Regional Director

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Members

Chris Ciruli

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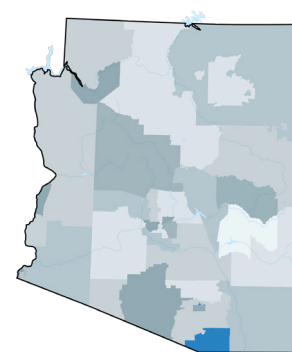
Laura Monarque

Norma "Erika" Garcia
Montano

Karen Rovang

Melisa Lunderville

David Verdugo



The Santa Cruz Region covers almost all of Santa Cruz County, the smallest county in Arizona. Situated in the Sonoran desert of southeast Arizona, Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz Region are home to six communities: Nogales, Patagonia, Rio Rico, Sonoita, Elgin and Tubac. Nogales is the county seat and is one of the largest ports of entry between Mexico and the United States. The area surrounding the Amado community in the northwestern corner of the county is assigned to the Pima South Region. The Santa Cruz Region includes Legislative District 2. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Santa-Cruz