



**EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME**

SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

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.



Early childhood is the starting gate that points a child securely on the path of social and academic success. It provides a child with an internal compass that will guide them through their childhood and beyond."

Trish Pemberton

Early Childhood Teacher Specialist for Kinder U
Mesa Public Schools

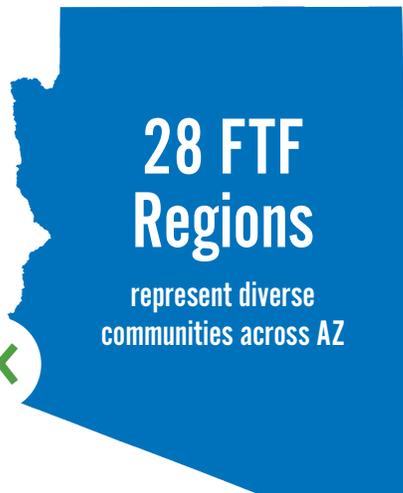
That's why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK



Early Childhood Funds

Allotted by FTF State Board



**28 FTF
Regions**

represent diverse
communities across AZ



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 SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

4,094 Instances a family or caregiver received early childhood information and/or resources or referrals through family resource centers.

9,982 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

5,031 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

1,957 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

3,849 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

SMALL HOME-BASED QUALITY FIRST CENTER IN MESA HELPS 'SYMPATHETIC SOUL' EXCEL

Since Allen Johnson and his wife, Maren, both work, they knew it was important to find the right child care for their daughter, Olivia. The parents wanted to be sure they found a center that was not only a safe, family-oriented environment, but also a place where 3-month-old Olivia could be happy and ultimately, find the motivation to develop skills that would prepare her for kindergarten.

Maren Johnson was referred to Playhouse, a home-based child care center in Mesa, which had a small family setting, a low number of children and a director passionate about early education and children.

Playhouse participates in Quality First, a signature program of First Things First that partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning. All Quality First centers or homes are committed to quality improvement, going beyond licensing requirements to help the infants, toddlers and preschoolers be ready for success in school and in life.



Johnson is grateful Olivia had a more individualized early education to prepare her for her next steps.

"I am so impressed with her level of comprehension in conversation and problem-solving skills," Johnson said. "She has learned how to work through disagreements, learned to take turns with games and has a sympathetic soul."

Johnson said that once Olivia started pre-kindergarten, she noticed that her daughter interacted well with other children, adapted easily to different environments, and excelled academically

Olivia starts kindergarten this fall, and she is excelling at all the activities and academics needed for her first year, Johnson said.

The Marena's were so pleased with Olivia's early learning experience at Playhouse that once their second daughter, Isabelle, was born, they enrolled her at Playhouse, too.

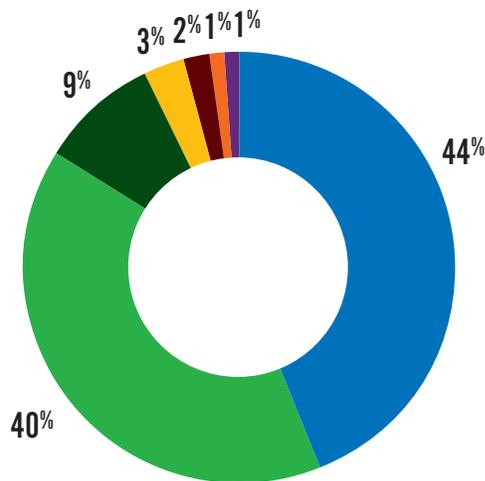
"The early years of development are critical for our daughters so that they are confident and independent in school," Johnson said. "Knowing that your children are in a safe place like Playhouse, while having fun with learning and developing skills that will take them further, gives peace of mind."

SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Southeast Maricopa 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	\$4,341,641
 Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$3,945,558
 Preventive Health	\$831,088
 Research and Evaluation	\$213,541
 Parent and Community Awareness	\$186,186
 Coordinating Support	\$161,864
 Workforce Development and Training	\$130,108
TOTAL	\$9,809,985



FIRST THINGS FIRST SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Abigail Conley,
Chair

Marjaneh Gilpatrick,
Vice Chair

Members

Katrina Cope

Cassandra Morwood

David Crummey

Shiloh Murillo

Billie Enz

Tammy Passante

Irene Frklich

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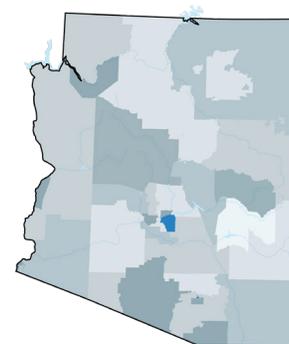
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The Southeast Maricopa Region is comprised of several communities within the southeastern portion of Maricopa County and includes Mesa and Gilbert, as well as the parts of Queen Creek and Apache Junction which lie within Maricopa County. It also includes some unincorporated areas adjacent to Mesa or Gilbert. The Southeast Maricopa Region includes Legislative Districts 12, 16, 17, 25 and 26. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at:
[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Southeast-Maricopa](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/Southeast-Maricopa)