



EARLY EXPERIENCES  
BUILD THE FOUNDATION  
FOR A LIFETIME

# YAVAPAI 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.

“

I support quality pre-school education for all children. Successful entrepreneurs typically have a command of the English language and are comfortable with math. They begin learning these skills at birth, building the foundation for learning other skills, like strategic planning, which are needed to operate a business.”

**Kathy Bazan**

Small Business Specialist  
City of Cottonwood

## 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 YAVAPAI REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

**1,120** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

**391** Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



## QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

**1,538** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



## PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

**79** Infants and toddlers who entered the child welfare system benefited from coordinated efforts to meet their unique developmental needs.

## QUIET PRESCHOOLER BECOMES SOCIAL BUTTERFLY IN BLACK CANYON CITY

A year ago, 4-year old Nicholas Madueno used very few words. While interested in activities going on around him, he was quiet and socially reserved.

"He didn't have the vocabulary he needed to express himself," said his mom, Christina Geister. Things changed after she enrolled him in Sonshine Learning Center, a four-star Quality First preschool in Black Canyon City.

Geister credits his success to the school's participation in First Things First's signature program Quality First.

"This high-quality learning environment supports not only Nicholas' vocabulary development, but his overall social growth," she said.

Quality First partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona. The program funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training and coaching for teachers to expand



their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

"Our teachers use the Arizona Early Learning Standards as a guide to help them incorporate all of the skills the children need to succeed," said school Director Sherry Birch. Preschool students use a weekly reader magazine to incorporate vocabulary-building, reading and learning the alphabet "Parents are encouraged to challenge their young readers by tracking completion of each book at home with an apple or heart that is displayed in the classroom with the child's name on it," Birch said.

Today, Nicholas is friendly and extroverted. When classroom guests visit the students, he introduces each classmate and his teacher by name. His favorite learning centers are science and math, dramatic play and puzzles.

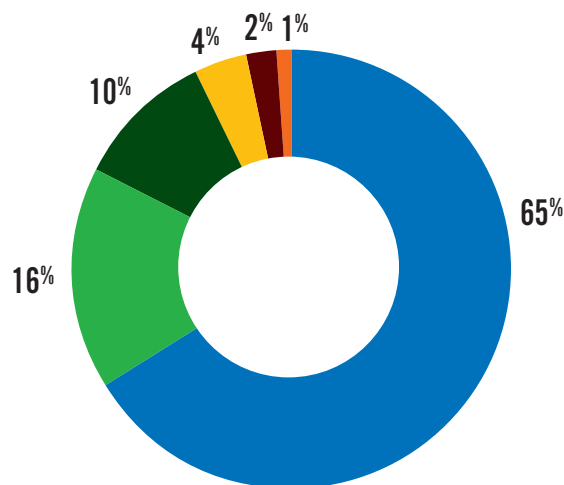
"He's no longer the quiet child; he now has confidence in his ability to use a larger vocabulary and socialize with his peers and teachers," Geister said.

# YAVAPAI REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Yavapai 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	\$1,953,831
Strengthening Families	\$482,992
Preventive Health	\$325,872
Parent and Community Awareness	\$136,909
Research and Evaluation	\$65,692
Workforce Development and Training	\$38,086
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,003,381</b>



## FIRST THINGS FIRST YAVAPAI REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sherry Birch,  
Chair

Olga Morris,  
Vice Chair

Lisa Blyth,  
FTF Regional Director  
lblyth@firstthingsfirst.org  
928.776.0062

### Members

Anne Babinsky

Michael Reed

Nancy Chopko

Rebecca Serratos

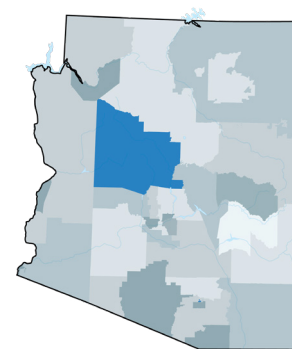
Stan Goligoski

Ophelia Tewawina

Vickey LaMotte

Kathy Watson

Tammy Lee



The Yavapai Region covers all of Yavapai County, plus the part of the city of Sedona that lies in Coconino County. The Yavapai-Apache Nation is included in the Yavapai Region. With 38 percent of the land owned by the U.S. Forest Service, the Yavapai Region is known for its four mild seasons, plentiful lakes, mountains and forest and small town atmosphere. The Yavapai Region includes Legislative Districts 1 and 6. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Yavapai](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Yavapai)