Early experiences build the foundation for a lifetime
Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

Fiscal Year 2019 Cocopah Region Impact Highlights

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

- **Strengthening Families and Early Literacy**
  - 14 families with young children participated in voluntary home visiting programs proven to reduce parental stress levels, increase connections to community supports, and improve children's cognitive, motor, behavioral and socio-emotional development.

- **Quality Preschool and Child Care**
  - 19 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

- **Preventive Health**
  - 17 Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

Additional strategies:

- 2 professionals attended the Yuma County Home Visitor Community of Practice and received monthly professional development learning new tools and strategies to implement in their work with families.

“Since being part of the FTF Cocopah Regional Partnership Council this past year, my level of knowledge of and respect for the work that First Things First does throughout Arizona and specifically, the Cocopah Tribal community, is awe-inspiring. From the professional development opportunities, the social media presence to the strategic grassroots approaches to early childhood development, the impact is wide, broad and yet close to home and heart. The far-reaching arms of FTF impact entire households, which in turn strengthen the entire community. I am very honored to be part of this great work.”

Onawa M. Allen
Vice Chair of FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council
When Olivia was 18-months-old, Stephanie enrolled in the Early Steps program and began learning more about brain development and how all children develop at a different pace. One thing Ramirez knew she needed help with was potty training. As Olivia became ready, Stephanie made the necessary accommodations in her house, dressed her with elastic waist pants and pull-ups to ease the process, and also was consistent in teaching her to use the toilet. All recommendations from the parent educator.

Stephanie also learned new ways to increase Olivia's language development. She committed to reading to her daughter daily and having conversations with her about their everyday activities using full sentences and avoiding “baby talk.” The parent educator told her children learn through repetition and she began repeating words to Olivia, which she soon started to also repeat.

Now 3 years old, when it came time for Olivia to attend Cocopah Head Start, Olivia became anxious. She didn't want to go. One tool that helped was taking pictures of family members and making a photo album. “Olivia was the decorator and was in control of the decision which person or item went into the photo album,” Stephanie said. “Now she brings the photo album with her to preschool and looks at the pictures when she feels it is necessary.”

Providing Olivia with the needed comfort made the new experience less frightening and made for a smoother transition, Ramirez said.

“With the challenges our children encounter, the vision of FTF has created an efficient foundation. With traditional values of the Tribes added to FTF’s vision, it is a framework for success. This partnership produces unique development for each region: helping children’s brain development, health, and learning, for a successful life!”

Deal Begay, Vice Chair, Cocopah Tribe Council
Cocopah Tribe Regional Council

The FTF Cocopah Tribe 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.

FY19 Total Regional Program Expenditures

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening Families</td>
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<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Workforce Development and Training</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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FTF Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Chair: Deal Begay
Vice Chair: Onawa Allen
Members: Bianca Demara, Paula Twist Koolick, Patricia R. Peterson

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The Cocopah Indian Tribe is a federally recognized, sovereign tribe located in the most southwestern corner of Arizona, 13 miles south of Yuma and along the Colorado River. The Cocopah (Kwapa), also known as the River People, have historically lived along the lower Colorado River and delta. They are descendants of the Yuman-language speaking people that occupied the lands along the Colorado River. The current Cocopah Reservation is comprised of three noncontiguous regions: East, North and West Reservations. The boundaries of the First Things First Cocopah Tribe Region match those of the Cocopah Reservation. The Cocopah Tribe Region includes Legislative District 4. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Cocopah-Tribe