



FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Gila Region



Early experiences build the
foundation for a lifetime



of a child's brain growth happens 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.



It's absolutely necessary as a community that we make it a priority to invest in early childhood. They will become our future workforce, leaders and business owners. Investing in children at an early age, we are investing in our community."

Linda Oddonnetto

Economic Development Director, City of Globe

Fiscal Year 2019 Gila Region Impact Highlights

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



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

392

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

108

Parents and other caregivers participated in evidence-based trainings designed to improved knowledge of parenting practices and children's development.



Quality Preschool and Child Care

97

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

77

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

3

Early childhood educators received college scholarships to improve their qualifications for working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



Preventive Health

332

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

Additional strategies:



295 children received

a screening to detect tooth decay, which left undetected and treated could cause damage to permanent teeth, impaired speech development and failure to thrive.



17,062 books were given

to families with children ages birth to 5 years to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.



Quality First preschools in Globe-Miami area helping children prepare for kindergarten

Brandi White, a mother of four children and a former elementary school teacher has seen a difference in her 4-year-old son, Vander, since enrolling him in Sylvia Ducharme's home preschool in Globe. White knew Vander would need some help preparing for kindergarten, so she was looking for a preschool enrolled in Quality First.

As a signature program of First Things First, Quality First program partners with child care and preschool providers across Arizona to improve the quality of early learning. Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training for teachers to expand their skills and achieve their best.

As a 5-star Quality First program in Globe, Ducharme improved her preschool program with recommended materials and coaching support.

"I used to not have the right materials or the knowledge about the right materials ... with the coaching, I get a lot of training that helps me to understand what is needed," said Ducharme.

White said Vander has made great advances since attending Ducharme's preschool.

"When he started, he couldn't identify letters or shapes and couldn't count high," said White. "Now he knows all his colors, shapes, letters and numbers. He can count up to 45 with no mess ups and up to 100 with a little help."

In the nearby town of Miami, Sherry Dorathy, superintendent of the Miami Unified School District, oversees the Little Vandals Preschool and has noticed changes in her preschool teachers and classroom environment because of the Quality First program.

"I can tell there is a huge difference in the classroom arrangement from what it was before and what it is now," said Dorathy. "The classroom used to look cluttered and very full. Now they've rearranged the furniture and areas are easy to access. Teachers have also increased their lesson planning."

Ivannia Vasquez, the mother of 3-year-old daughter, Audrina, said that she's seen a big difference in her child's behavior after attending the Little Vandals Preschool.

"She is an only child and very quiet and shy," said Vasquez. "It was different for her to have to share, and she didn't know how to approach the kids. The teachers helped her to get to know other children. Now she gives everyone hugs. It's so cute."



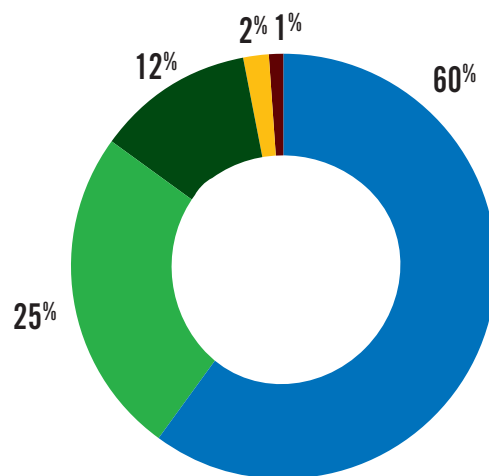
Read more FTF stories at FirstThingsFirst.org/region-stories/

Gila Regional Council

The FTF Gila 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

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$410,300
Strengthening Families	\$184,458
Preventive Health	\$85,295
Research and Evaluation	\$18,775
Parent and Community Awareness	\$13,047
TOTAL	\$711,876



FTF Gila Regional Partnership Council

Chair
Fernando Shipley

Vice Chair
Sherry Dorathy

Members

Debora Bunney

Charles Proudfoot

Jeri Byrne

Melissa Ruff

Debbie Leverance

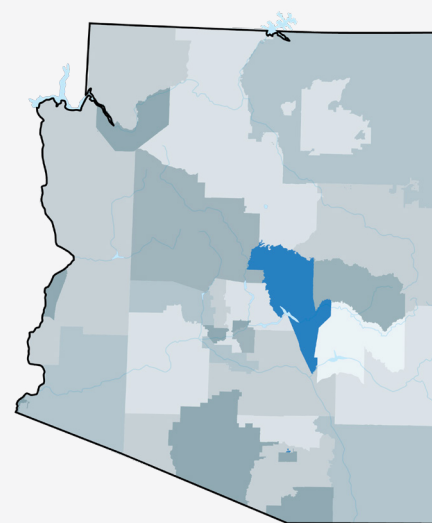
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The Gila Region is defined as Gila County, not including the lands belonging to the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the White Mountain Apache Tribe, which are their own First Things First regions. The Gila Region's population is located in the small towns of Globe, Payson, Miami, Hayden/Winkelman, Pine/ Strawberry, the unincorporated areas of Tonto Basin and Young, and a number of rural unincorporated communities. The Tonto Apache Tribe is located within the Gila Region, adjacent to the city of Payson. The Gila Region includes Legislative District 6. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Gila