



## # FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT

# Pima South 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.



The FTF Pima South Regional Partnership Council worked collaboratively to create a strategic plan that includes key priorities to guide us in our decision making and to ensure we are supporting the development and learning of young children in our region."

**Dr. David Dumon**

Vice-Chair of FTF Pima South Regional Partnership Council

## Fiscal Year 2019 Pima South Region Impact Highlights

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



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**235**

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

**3,031**

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

**320**

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

**196**

Early childhood educators attended a training or session to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



### Preventive Health

**229**

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

**687**

Children fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

## Additional strategies:



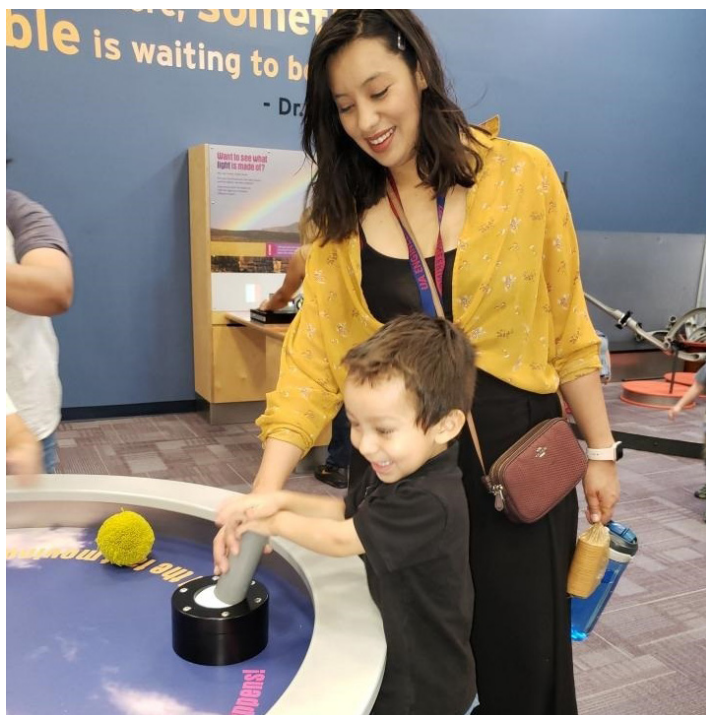
### 910 Families of newborns

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



### 2,572 Books

were given to families with children ages birth to age 5 to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.



## Home visitation helps Tucson boy be ready for kindergarten

Yadel Arvizu knew children started learning at birth and began taking her son Angel to the library when he was about 4 months old. While attending storytime at the library, Arvizu met other parents, one of whom recommended she and Angel enroll in Parents as Teachers, a home visitation program through Tucson's Casa de los Ninos.

The home visitation program, which is funded by the First Things First Pima South Region, provides at-home visits for families of young children. The primary caregiver, who is typically a parent, but could also be a grandparent or another adult identified as a primary caregiver, receives regular in-home visits from a trained professional who provides parenting information, models ways to support healthy development and shares connections to other community resources.

Arvizu was matched with parent educator, Veronica, and the first-time mother was soon learning how important it was for her son to have quality early learning interactions with caring adults.

"I suddenly realized that I could be doing dishes by myself while trying to keep my son busy, or I could have him help me with the dishes, giving us the chance

to spend time together," Arvizu said. "Now he's learning something, and I'm paying attention to him."

She also learned how to redirect Angel when he exhibits challenging behaviors.

"For example, the other day Angel dumped all these colored chips on the ground so I got three empty cups out and asked him to put the red chips in one, the blue chips in another cup and the yellow chips in the last cup," Arvizu said. "Before long the mess was cleaned up and he had thought we were playing a game the whole time."

Arvizu also gained new insight in how to support her son's social development.

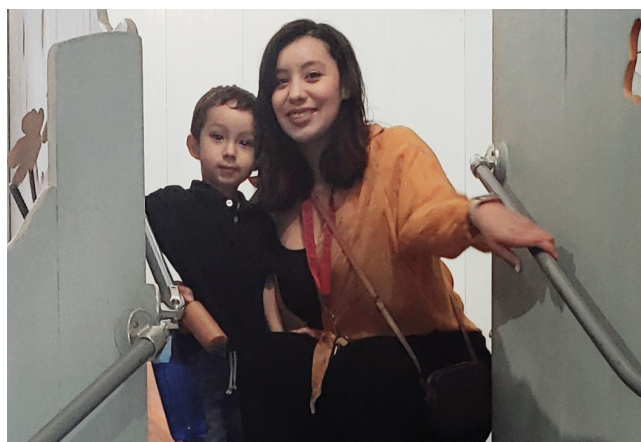
"I was worried about how Angel wasn't interacting with other children his age," she said. "I talked to Veronica about how he didn't play with or want to play with other children. Veronica suggested that I try demonstrating to him how to make friends."

She found an opportunity at a recent parenting class where Arvizu introduced herself to two children playing together.

"Angel watched me as I told the children my name, asked them what their names were, and asked what they were playing and if I could join them," Arvizu said. "The next thing I knew he had joined us and started to play with them on his own. I felt so much relief seeing him able to do that."

She feels confident that Angel will have the social and academic skills to be ready for kindergarten.

"Veronica has supported me and Angel through some important life transitions," Arvizu said. "I feel he'll be ready for what's next for him."



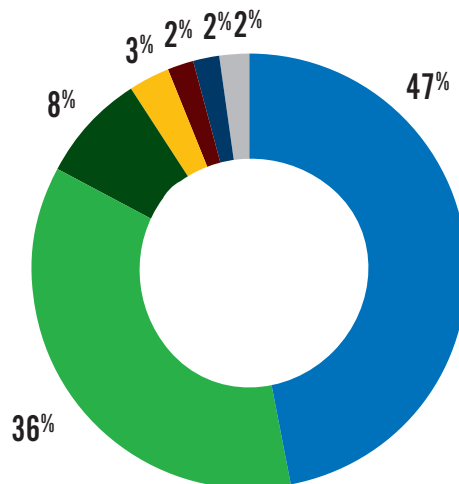


# FTF Pima South Regional Council

The FTF Pima South 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	\$2,495,978
Strengthening Families	\$2,131,219
Workforce Development and Training	\$510,536
Preventive Health	\$284,711
Research and Evaluation	\$164,710
Coordinating Care	\$145,276
Parent and Community Awareness	\$123,368
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,855,799</b>



## FTF Pima South Regional Partnership Council

**Chair**  
Connie Espinoza

**Vice Chair**  
David Dumon

### Members

Jennifer Hook

Toni Lopez Krause

Linda Kubiak

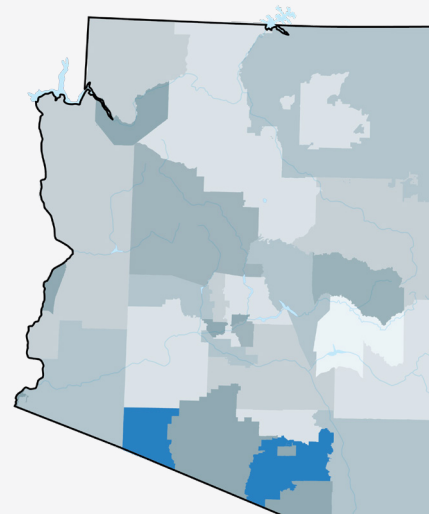
Leticia Lujan

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The Pima South Region is defined as the southern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation, plus a small part of Santa Cruz County around the Amado community. The Pima South Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 4 and 14. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-South](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-South)