



FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Yavapai 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.



I believe that a child's experiences between birth and age 5 are the foundation for their future life. We know that interactive talking, playing and reading starting in infancy wires the brain for language and future literacy."

Dr. Jean Barton

2019 FTF Yavapai Region Champion

Fiscal Year 2019 Yavapai Region Impact Highlights

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



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

1,190

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

57

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

1,597

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

324

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

5

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



Preventive Health

120

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

Additional strategies:



216 Professionals

received training so that they could make developmentally appropriate recommendations for children in out of home care.



Home visitation program helps Chino Valley mom track milestones for her premature twins

Jacqueline Nordlander was a very young mom and scared to be having twins.

“I didn’t know what to do,” Nordlander said, recalling her feelings while she was pregnant. “When they came two months premature with some major health challenges, I was overwhelmed.”

Nordlander, who currently lives in Chino Valley, was living in Prescott at the time, but had to be flown to Phoenix so the boys, Tim and Chris, could be placed in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) there.

“I stayed with my grandmother in Glendale for a few months while the boys got the medical care they needed,” Nordlander said. “One of my sons needed two surgeries and the other was jaundiced and had a heart murmur.”

It was during this time that one of the NICU nurses told her about First Things First and home visitation, which provides at home visits for families of young children with trained parent educators to support and empower families and children experiencing various challenges, as well as to support the bonding and relationship between the parents and child.

Nordlander started with the home visitation program in Glendale and was relieved to find out that the FTF Yavapai Region also funded the home visitation program. So when she moved back to Prescott, she was able to continue with the program.

The parent educator worked with Nordlander to track her sons’ development and know whether they were meeting typical milestones.

For the first two years of a premature baby’s life, development is measured at a child’s corrected age – the age they would be if born on their original due date. So, to accurately track the boys’ development, the young mother had to calculate the corrected age and look at the typical development of babies two months younger than they were.

“I didn’t know anything about milestones before,” Nordlander said. The parent educator “helped me teach the boys how to roll over and how to work on their fine motor skills like picking small things up or putting objects inside of something. The support I received from the First Things First-funded home visitation programs made all the difference.”

The boys, who are now 6 years old, were ready when they started kindergarten, Nordlander said.

“I still have the books I received and I can go back to review the information I learned any time I want to be sure I’m doing all I can to help my children be strong and healthy,” she said. “I now have the skills and confidence I needed as a parent to make sure each of my children is ready to learn and set for life.”



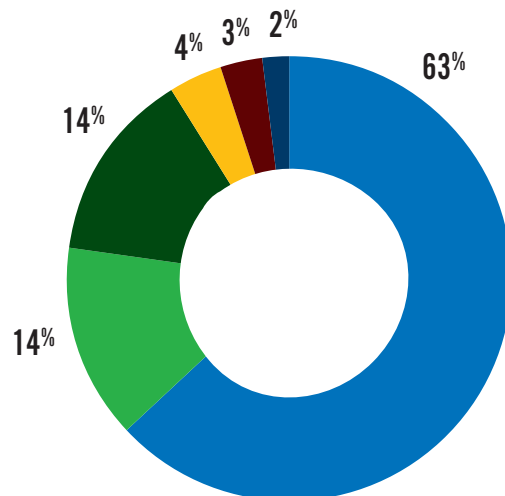
Read more FTF stories at [FirstThingsFirst.org/region-stories/](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/region-stories/)

FTF 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.

FY19 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$2,006,063
Preventive Health	\$482,584
Strengthening Families	\$462,727
Parent and Community Awareness	\$94,784
Research and Evaluation	\$84,230
Workforce Development and Training	\$45,429
TOTAL	\$3,175,817



FTF Yavapai Regional Partnership Council

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Sherry Birch

Vice Chair
Vickey LaMotte

Members

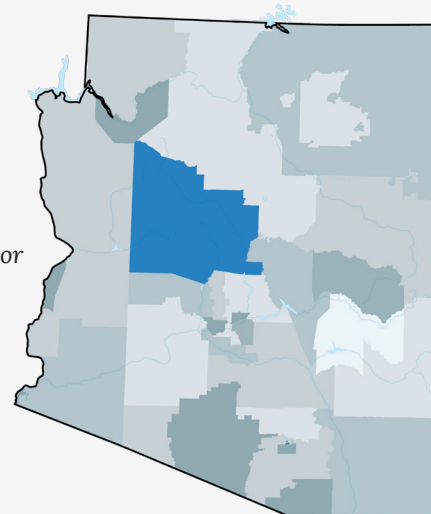
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The Yavapai Region covers all of Yavapai County, plus the part of the city of Sedona that lies in Coconino County. The Yavapai-Apache Nation is included in the Yavapai Region. With 38 percent of the land owned by the U.S. Forest Service, the Yavapai 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