

**# FIRST THINGS FIRST**

# Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region

## 2020 Impact Report



From birth to age 5, a child's brain grows more than any other time in life.

# 90% of a child's brain growth happens before kindergarten. Early childhood matters.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

Many young children in Arizona face challenges that threaten their healthy development and learning. In the FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region, there are **470 children** (under age 6) with **56% living in poverty**.

Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.

“The FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council remains committed and continues to make strategic investments to support the healthy development and learning of our young children in the region. As a mother, grandmother and a great grandmother, I continue to pray for strength, love and hope for all families to thrive, especially during these challenging times.”

**Shanna Ioane Tautolo**

*Interim Associate Director for Health, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council member*

## FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Key Impact Highlights [Fiscal Year 2020]



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

- 604** Books were given to parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a local distribution program.
- 75** Adults attended parenting activities to learn more about the importance of early childhood development.



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

- 45** Preschoolers participated in early learning activities through a virtual summer program helping children transition to kindergarten.
- 14** Early childhood educators received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teacher-child interactions.

# Pascua Yaqui Tribe boy develops cognitive skills through daily play time

Alejandra Koran was a first-time mother and unsure of how to bond with her baby. Joshua was only a few months old when his mother first heard about parenting workshops being offered at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library on the Pascua Yaqui Tribe reservation in Tucson.

The First Things First Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council funds the workshops to help families learn more about the importance of early childhood development and how they are their child's first and best teacher. FTF provides support at no charge to families with children birth to age 5 in early childhood development, education, health and obtaining other services.

Koran and her son began attending the family workshops once a week, which includes story time, followed by play time for an hour. Children explore and make sense of the world around them through play. Research has shown that play impacts everything from physical abilities and vocabulary to problem solving, creativity, teamwork and empathy.

FTF provides support at no charge to families with children birth to age 5 in early childhood development, education, health and obtaining other services.

One of the biggest takeaways for Koran was learning to interact with her son while he played. For example, mom and son would practice matching shapes and colors in order to improve Joshua's cognitive functions.

"At first he didn't know what to do with the item in front of him, and he would get upset because he didn't understand," Koran said. "It seems so silly when I think about it now. Of course you need to teach a baby how to play. I used to think that Joshua would figure out how to use whatever was in front of him on his own."

Additionally, Koran felt comforted to learn that she didn't need to invest in expensive toys in order to interest her son.

"To be honest, Joshua could have an expensive toy right next to him, but he'll always gravitate to the cardboard box in the corner of the room," she said. "It's great to know that you can make any moment a learning opportunity."

"Doing these activities with him, is actually really fun for me, too. I love watching him learn and realize new things." - Alejandra Koran, first-time mother

The cognitive learning eventually led to Joshua learning to self-play. "I realized how much knowledge Joshua's brain was absorbing," Koran said.

Now at 18 months old, Joshua excels at matching shapes and colors together, while also showing more curiosity in his surroundings.

Koran now views playtime for what it is, "a fun, learning time," and not a stress-inducing activity.

"Doing these activities with him, is actually really fun for me, too. I love watching him learn and realize new things," she said.



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

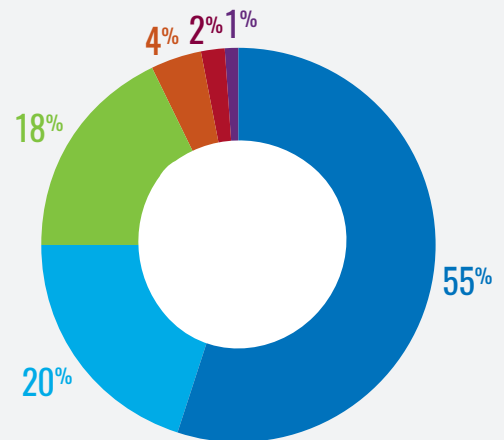
# FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

The FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds should be used to best support the healthy development and early learning 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. Some of the programs in this region include Great Expectations for Teachers, Children, Families and Communities, early educator professional development, tribal library parenting outreach and Pascua Yaqui Head Start Summer Program.

## FTF PYT FY20 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Workforce Development and Training	\$130,457
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$48,856
Strengthening Families	\$44,687
Parent and Community Awareness	\$11,380
Research and Evaluation	\$6,166
Coordinating Care	\$381
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$241,928</b>



## FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council and Staff

*Chair*  
**Cecilia Garcia**

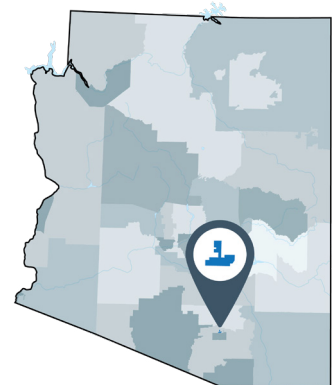
*Vice Chair*  
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**Amalia Reyes**

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*The **FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region** is defined by the borders of the Pascua Pueblo Reservation in Pima County. The region covers approximately 2.2 square miles. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is one of 10 Arizona tribes that has chosen to be designated as its own First Things First region. The FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region includes Legislative District 4. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)*

Learn more at  
[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pascua-Yaqui-Tribe](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pascua-Yaqui-Tribe)