First Things First supports early childhood programs in Arizona through grants to community organizations that provide services—at no cost—for young children from birth to age 5 (before kindergarten) and their families.

Areas served: First Things First’s Pima North, Pima South, Tohono O’odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe regions.

Parenting

There’s no one right way to raise a child, and you don’t have to be perfect. These programs are here to help you learn effective ways to support your child’s healthy development and learning.

Parenting Activities

Participate in family-friendly workshops, classes, story times and other events to have fun with your child, learn more about child development, positive parenting, health and literacy, and meet other parents.

Family Support - Children with Special Needs

Get individualized support and coaching to help you identify and address developmental concerns early, respond to challenging behaviors, and support your child’s physical, social and emotional development.

Home Visiting Programs

Work 1-on-1 with a trained and caring parent educator, in the convenience of your own home, to build on the parenting skills you already have and nurture your child’s health, development and learning.

Child Health and Development

All children develop differently, but it helps to know if they’re meeting typical milestones or could use extra assistance, and many medical and dental problems can be prevented.

Dental/Oral Health

Prevent tooth decay by having a professional check your child’s teeth (or yours, if you’re pregnant), protect your child’s teeth with fluoride, and get a referral to a dentist if you need one.

Support for Families with Immediate Needs

In times of difficulty, families can find immediate help to provide for the care and safety of their young children. Connect with services available in your community to meet your most urgent needs and help you nurture your child’s healthy development.

Parenting Activities

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
Cholpon Rosengren | (520) 903-3921
familysupport@unitedwaytucson.org
pimaparenting.org

Make Way for Books
(520) 398-6451 | info@makewayforbooks.org
makewayforbooks.org

Parents As Teachers for Special Needs Program
Easter Seals Blake Foundation
Marely Lievanos | (520) 792-2636 x 7098
parentsasteachers@blake.easterseals.com

In-Home Family Support
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
(520) 903-3921
familysupport@unitedwaytucson.org

First Smiles Matter
Pima County Health Department
Margaret Perry | (520) 724-7902
margaret.perry@pima.gov

Family Support and Child Development
Tohono O’odham Nation
Genevieve Valenzuela | (520) 349-8324
genevieve.valenzuela@tonation-nsn.gov

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Well-Child Programs
Get information, assistance and referrals from a developmental specialist to help you support the health and development of your young child.

Quality Child Care and Preschool
Quality early learning programs help young children learn, grow and thrive. More than 1,000 child care centers, homes and preschool programs in Arizona participate in Quality First to improve the quality of early learning for kids from birth to age 5. Many offer Quality First Scholarships to help low-income families afford quality early care and education.

Transition to Kindergarten
Introducing your child to what they'll experience in a kindergarten classroom can reduce their stress — and yours — and help them be ready to succeed in school.

Birth to Five Helpline
A free service available to all Arizona families with young children, (as well as parents-to-be), who have questions about their baby, toddler or preschooler. Ask experts about your child’s feeding, sleep, behavior or any other concern. The Birth to Five Helpline is here to help.

Pima County Region
For more information contact:

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(520) 628-6694 | cgarza@firstthingsfirst.org

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Southeast Regional Area Sr. Director
(520) 628-6675 | jharrington@firstthingsfirst.org

Lisette DeMars
Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Director
(520) 628-6435 | ldemars@firstthingsfirst.org

Melissa Rosciano
Community Outreach Coordinator
(520) 628-6698 | mrosciano@firstthingsfirst.org

Jaynie Jacobs
Pima South Regional Director
(520) 628-6689 | jjacobs@firstthingsfirst.org

Tiburcia Yocupicio-Chambers
Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Director
(520) 628-6899 | tychambers@firstthingsfirst.org

Healthy Steps - El Rio
Casa de los Ninos / El Rio Community Health Center
John Elliott | (520) 624-5600 x 10221
jelliott@casadelosninos.org

Healthy Steps - Desert Senita
Desert Senita Community Health Center
Dakota Cooney | (520) 387-5651 x 3352
dcooney@desertsenita.org

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Southwest Human Development
1-877-705-KIDS (5437)
birthtofivehelpline.org

First Things First (FTF) will not discriminate on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. Qualified individuals with disabilities may request auxiliary aids and services to make information and communications accessible as well as request reasonable modifications to policies and programs so that they can participate equally in FTF's services, programs and activities. For assistance, contact FTF at (602) 771-5057. This document was last modified on 04/15/2022.