From birth to age 5, a child’s brain develops more than any other time in life.
First Things First (FTF) 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 Pima South Region, there are **25,171 children** (under age 6) with **28% living in poverty**.

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

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**FTF Pima South Regional Key Impact Highlights**

[State Fiscal Year 2022]

**Strengthening Families and Early Literacy**
- 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 social-emotional development.

**Preventive Health**
- Children received fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.
- Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

**Quality Preschool and Child Care**
- Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high-quality preschools and child care programs.
- Early childhood educators attended a training or session to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

**Additional Strategies**
- **960 Books** were given to families with children ages birth to age 5 to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.

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“Community Colleges are in a high-leverage position to remove barriers to success in the community. Because we are more accessible than any other route. The childcare center allows parents not to give up their dreams to create a pathway to graduation. They are also going to be teaching their kids through their actions. More is caught than taught.”

**Edgar Soto**
Campus Vice President,
Pima Community-College-Desert Vista Campus

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90% of a child’s brain grows before kindergarten.

**Early childhood matters.**
Nurse-Family Partnership helping moms-to-be find success for their babies and self

The First Things First Pima South Regional Partnership Council funds the Nurse-Family Partnership, a home visitation program, which works with first-time, moms-to-be and their children from pregnancy until the child turns 2. The program includes one-on-one home visits with a registered nurse throughout the child’s first two years.

The program is designed to support first-time moms to the path of a healthy pregnancy, a strong network of support and positive parenting practices. Home visitation programs provide participating families of babies and toddlers with information, education and support on parenting, child development and health topics while simultaneously assisting with connections to other resources or programs as needed.

For example, many mothers said that their bi-weekly visit with their nurse from the Nurse-Family Partnership was like seeing a nurse, therapist, social worker and for many, a mother figure all in one. Some mothers in the program said their nurse home visitor provided moral support, parenting education and referrals to numerous resources to help prepare them for the birth of their child. The mother develops a close relationship with the nurse, who in turn becomes a trusted resource they can rely on for advice.

Read more FTF stories at FirstThingsFirst.org/Region-Stories
FTF Pima South Regional Partnership Council

FTF regional partnership councils are made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and inform 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.

FTF Pima South SFY22 Total Regional Program Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Child Care and Preschool</td>
<td>$2,426,145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening Families</td>
<td>$2,053,260</td>
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<td>Preventive Health</td>
<td>$816,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce Development and Training</td>
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<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>$130,899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent and Community Awareness</td>
<td>$104,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,222,949</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FTF Pima South Regional Partnership Council and Staff

**Chair**
Toni Lopez Krause

**Vice Chair**
Leticia Lujan

**Members**
Dennis Billie
David Dumon
Connie Espinoza
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The FTF 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.

Learn more at FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-South