



## Investing in Our Future: Positive Outcomes of Early Childhood Investments

First Things First (FTF), Arizona’s early childhood agency, represents a commitment Arizonans made to our youngest children – that they would have the support they need to start school healthy and ready to succeed. Many young children in Arizona face significant barriers to their success, including poverty, trauma and lack of access to needed resources. In the FTF White Mountain Apache Tribe Region, there are **2,003 children** (under age 6), with **51% living in poverty**. Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.



**90%** of a child’s brain grows before kindergarten.  
**Early childhood matters.**



FTF invests in proven programs, like Quality First, and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families. Some of the FTF-funded services in this region include Parenting Counts Workshops.

## Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**573** Adults attended parenting activities to learn more about the importance of early childhood development.

**1,550** Resources were distributed to adults for connecting parents with parenting tips, services and programs.

### Quality Preschool and Child Care

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

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

**15** Early childhood educator received a college scholarship to improve skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



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## Quality First uses research to help children thrive

The First Things First White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council recognizes the important need for quality early childhood education in White Mountain Apache Tribe region. The regional council continues to fund Quality First, which partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning development in Arizona. Quality First provides quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training for teachers to expand their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

The early childhood years, from birth to age 5, are when a child's brain is growing faster than at any other time in life. And early brain development has a lasting impact on a child's ability to learn and succeed in school and life. The brain connections needed for many important abilities like motivation, self-regulation, problem-solving and communication are formed in these early years through positive, nurturing interactions with caring adults.

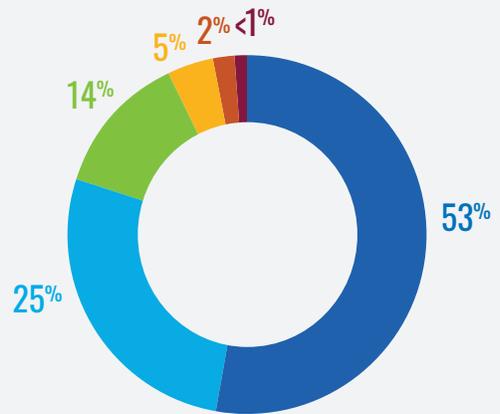


### Quality Early Learning

Research shows that kids with access to quality early care and education are more ready when they start kindergarten and do better in school. That's why First Things First created Quality First — to help early educators in our state improve the quality of their programs in ways that help young children learn, grow and thrive.

## State Fiscal Year 2023 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$451,915
Preventive Health	\$217,354
Strengthening Families	\$121,171
Workforce Development and Trainings	\$40,854
Research and Evaluation	\$17,899
Parent and Community Awareness	\$7,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$856,892</b>



## FTF White Mountain Apache Tribe 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.

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Dawnafe Whitesinger

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## Scan to Learn More and Connect with Staff

[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/White-Mountain-Apache-Tribe](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/White-Mountain-Apache-Tribe)

