



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 Yavapai Region, there are **11,066 children** (under age 6), with **17% 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 and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families. One of these programs is Little Learners.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

1,078 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child’s healthy development.

47 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

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

Quality Preschool and Child Care

1,567 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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

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



Find free programs near you

Quality First uses research to help children thrive

The First Things First Yavapai Regional Partnership Council recognizes the important need for quality early childhood education in Yavapai County. 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.

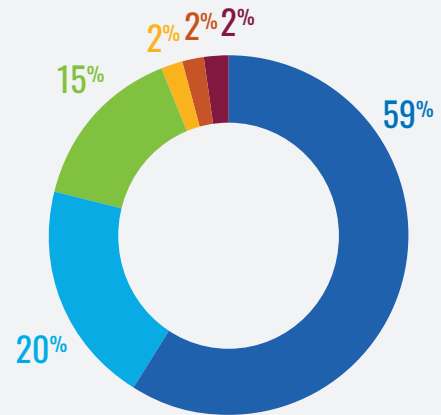


Quality Early Learning

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	\$1,899,025
Preventive Health	\$624,550
Strengthening Families	\$465,974
Parent and Community Awareness	\$80,422
Research and Evaluation	\$72,584
Workforce Development and Trainings	\$51,907
Total	\$3,194,461



FTF Yavapai 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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Vice Chair

Virginia Hout

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FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Yavapai

