

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.

The Southeast Maricopa Region includes Mesa, Gilbert, parts of Queen Creek and Apache Junction which lie within Maricopa County, and some unincorporated areas adjacent to Mesa or Gilbert.



GET THIS INFO ONLINE:

[FirstThingsFirst.org / Find-Programs](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org/Find-Programs)



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.

Family Resource Centers

Bring your children and take classes and workshops from trained parent educators, connect with community resources and more, all in one convenient location.

AZCEND Gilbert Family Resource Center at the Heritage Center
(480) 428-5446
info@azcend.org

LSS Family Resource Center West Mesa at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
(480) 489-5771
requests-comments@lss-sw.org

LSS Family Resource Center East Mesa at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
(480) 489-5773
requests-comments@lss-sw.org

Mesa Family Resource Center
(480) 644-6496
MFRInfo@mesaaz.gov

Queen Creek Family Resource Center
(480) 750-3382
qc.frc@wonderwisepreschool.com

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.

Healthy Families Southwest Human Development
(602) 427-4725
Healthyfamilies@swhd.org

Parents as Teachers Child & Family Resources
(480) 245-9379
cfr@crfaz.org

Parents as Teachers Arizona's Children Association
(480) 589-0766
info@arizonaschildren.org

Parent Partners Plus
(602) 633-0732
ppptintake@swhd.org

Nurse-Family Partnership Southwest Human Development
(602) 224-1740
nfp@swhd.org

Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers

Many children spend parts of the day with non-parent caregivers in informal home settings. Learn how you can better support the health, development and learning of the young children in your care through health and safety practices, educational activities and understanding more about child development.

Kith and Kin
(480) 829-0500 ext. 1313
hello@candelen.org
(480) 829-0500 ext. 1231
hello@candelen.org

Reach Out and Read

Reach Out and Read is a program that partners with trusted and trained community pediatricians to share information about the importance of reading with young children and their families during their well-child visits. In addition to discussing this with the family at the visit, the pediatrician will also give them a developmentally appropriate children's book to support their journey.

Reach Out and Read
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

(602) 532-0137 ext. 413
melanie@azaap.org



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.

Dignity Health Early Childhood Oral Health Program

Dignity Community Care dba Chandler Regional Medical Center

(480) 728-5709
dignityhealthcohd@dignityhealth.org



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.



Learn more and find programs near you at: [FirstThingsFirst.org](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org)



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.



Southwest Human Development

1-877-705-KIDS (5437)
birthtofivehelpline.org

LEARN MORE

For more information about how First Things First supports the healthy development and learning of young children in our community, visit us at [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Southeast-Maricopa](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Southeast-Maricopa) or call **602.771.4981**.

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Space may be limited and eligibility requirements may apply. While this listing only includes programs funded by First Things First, many of them can connect you with additional services that might be right for you.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 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 03/06/2025.

SCAN QR CODE
TO FIND PROGRAMS
IN YOUR AREA

