



A child's brain grows more rapidly from birth to age 5 than at any other time. During these early years, positive interactions and nurturing environments are critical in shaping a child's cognitive, social and emotional growth—laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Funded through tobacco revenue, Arizona voters established **First Things First** as the state's only public funding source dedicated exclusively to early childhood. We collaborate with families and communities to support the health and learning of Arizona's youngest children.



90% of brain growth happens before kindergarten.

Our Strategic Focus Areas

- 1 Quality Child Care**
Quality First partners with over 1,100 child care providers statewide to enhance early learning environments and ensure children receive quality education.
- 2 Strong Families**
Community and home-based services that build parental resilience, enhance knowledge of child development and promote children's social and emotional well-being.
- 3 Preventive Health**
Ensuring children have access to medical and dental care, developmental screenings and early intervention services to promptly address health concerns.



Because learning starts from birth, First Things First created Quality First to help early care and education providers improve the quality of their programs.
Learn more at QualityFirstAZ.com

How We Work



Early Childhood Funds

are allotted by the FTF State Board



28 FTF Regions

represent diverse communities across AZ



Regional Decision-Making

Each regional council has 11 volunteers recommending strategies to strengthen early childhood programs and services based on their community's needs.



Local Partnerships

We fund early childhood providers through grants that support high-quality programs and services.



Community Collaboration

We work alongside local organizations to build a stronger, more connected early childhood system.



The result, Arizona's youngest children are better prepared to



LEARN



GROW



SUCCEED

95%
of funds

go directly to programs and services for young children and families. First Things First publishes reports yearly, so you can see the results of our work and funding.

Learn more at FirstThingsFirst.org/investments