

QualityCounts Early Head Start

#### **PROGRAMS**

Early Head Start

**Quality Counts** 

Nurse Family Partnership

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

2016 - 2017





## Spartanburg County First Steps

Annual Report 2016-2017

#### By the Numbers

#### **County Statistics**

First Steps serves children pre-birth to 5 years old who are at risk of not being ready for school.

- Since inception, Spartanburg County First Steps has leveraged \$34,553,500 from sources outside of state government. That's \$2.54 for every state dollar received.
- Spartanburg County First Steps Quality Counts Program works with 52% of the child care centers in the county to improve the quality of early education for young children during FY15.
- First Steps successfully managed the EHS and CCP grants at full enrollment in the 2016-2017 program year.
- Since 2009, over 500 Spartanburg County vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies received services from Nurse Family Partnership.

#### **Our Results**

**✓** Early Head Start #'s

200 enrollment slots awarded!

**✓** Quality Counts #'s

52% carly care and education programs in Spartanburg County enrolled in Quality Counts

Over 2400 children benefit daily from quality care.

**✓** Nurse Family Partnership #'s

Serving 200 first time pregnant moms and children

Her list of professi
Springs High Scho education, either attending, teaching or serving
Middle Tyger Comm in leadership most all of her life.

After graduating from Boiling Springs High

In the year 1999, § School in 1967 she became the first student to comprehensive ear enroll in the University of South Carolina

Carolina County is ...... for meeting local needs and identifying collaborative opportunities to help our state's youngest learners.

Spartanburg County, with the help of many, has supported early education with outstanding Board Leadership over the past 17 years. Each of the seven Spartanburg County School Districts has a representative position on the First Steps Board. Wanda was appointed to the Spartanburg First Steps Board by Dr. Sid Crumpton, Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Five. Wanda has served on the First Steps board for seventeen years.

Wanda has recently retired from the Middle Tyger Community Center in District Five, and is retiring from the First Steps Board this year. Her guidance, leadership, friendship, understanding and love of education is a gift to the children of our County and State.

Thank you, Wanda Fowler, for giving your gifts, graces and advice! We are all the better for your leadership and I am honored to think of you as a sister and friend.

With a heart full of thankfulness, love and admiration,

Carolyn

Spartanburg County First Steps 900 South Pine Street Spartanburg S.C. 29302 864-327-4900

www.1steps.org

Board Chair Wanda L. Fowler















County Programs

- Early Head Start
  Ouality Counts
- Nurse Family
  Partnership

• Baby Net
• First Steps 4k



Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.

#### **Healthy Start**

We begin with a focus on pro This includes prenatal and p mother and baby. In 2007, F

philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.

#### **Family Strengthening**

Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps' intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at "low" levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.

#### **Early Intervention**

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.

## What We Do

nd training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows

th quality childcare providers.

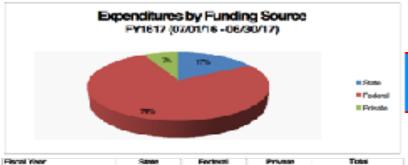
has a significant impact on a child's development and success in school.

#### **Early Education**

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.

#### **School Transition**

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.



Fiscal Year	Street		Fortecti		PYMORE		Total		
3X312015 - 05305286	5	973,159	5	3,000,234	5	26,175	8	38479,5	42.20
State Leverage 1/2:		461%							
Rindingy		State		Federal		Private		Total	4.
Administrative	\$	200,001	S	23,601	\$	-	\$	290,602	3%
Programmatic	5	111,002	5	64,006	6	5,100	G	200,800	5%
Quality Counts	5	314,687	5	-	6	225,174	6	500,701	1486
Early Head Start	3		3	1,511,106	3	5,362	3	1,517,003	38%
Child Care Partnership	5		5	1,121,404	5		5	1.121.404	20%
Nurse Farrily Partnership	5	-	5	205,450	5	24,312	5	290,900	7%
Community Chimnoch	5	38(480)	5		8	29,480	8	74,394	75.
Total:	\$	873,120	\$	3,010,234	\$	208,776	\$	3,075,540	100%
		17%		7E%		776		100%	

**Total 2016-2017 Expenditures** \$3,979,548

**Funds Leveraged 491%** 

#### EHS Monthly Board Report - June 2017

Agency Name Spartanburg County First Steps - EHS	Agency# 04CH1001002
Program Year Begin Date July 1	

Section A - Bu	Section A - Budget Summary							
Program	Federal	Federal					Non-Federal	
Function/	Domestic Assistance		Obligated /		1			
Activity	Number	Awarded	Expended	Unobligated		Required	Received	Shortage
3) PA-25	93.600	1,457,873	1,457,873	(0)		373,305	373,305	-
4) PA-1126	93.600	35,343	35,343	-		-	-	-
5) Totals	93.600	1,493,216	1,493,216	(0)		-	-	-

Notes

	Section B - Budget Categories for Federal Funds									
			Program Funds		Profes	sional Develo	pment		Totals	
(	Object Class Categories		Obligated /			Obligated /			Obligated /	
		Awarded	Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Expended	Unobligated
A)	Personnel	696,881	715,646	(18,765)	-	-	-	696,881	715,646	(18,765)
B)	Fringe Benefits	277,373	321,092	(43,719)	-	-	-	277,373	321,092	(43,719)
C)	Travel	-	-	-	12,363	12,363	-	12,363	12,363	-
D)	Equipment	-	2,385	(2,385)	-	-	-	-	2,385	(2,385)
E)	Supplies	39,340	38,581	759	-	-	-	39,340	38,581	759
F)	Contractual	301,407	243,710	57,697	-	-	-	301,407	243,710	57,697
G)	Facilities/Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
H)	Renovations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I)	Other	101,084	105,644	(4,560)	22,980	22,980	-	124,064	128,624	(4,560)
J)	Total (A-I)	1,416,085	1,427,057	(10,972)	35,343	35,343	-	1,451,428	1,462,400	(10,972)
K)	Indirect Charges	41,788	30,816	10,972	-	-	-	41,788	30,816	10,972
L)	Total (J-K)	1,457,873	1,457,873	(0)	35,343	35,343	-	1,493,216	1,493,216	(0)

Notes
Worksheet for the period of 07/01/17 - 06/30/17

#### CCP Monthly Board Report - June 2017

Agency Name			Agency#
Spartanburg County First Ste	ps	s-CCP	04HP0038
-,			
Program Year Begin Date		September 1	
riogiam real Degin Date		September 1	

Section A - Bu Program										
Function / Activity	Domestic Assistance Number	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated		Required	Received	Shortage		
3) PA-25	93.600	1,089,028	1,133,688	(44,660)		282,188	282,188	-		
4) PA-1126	93.600	39,723	39,398	325		-	-	-		
5) Totals	93.600	1,128,751	1,173,087	(44,336)		-	-			

	Section B - Budget Categories for Federal Funds										
			Program Funds		Profes	ssional Develo	pment		Totals		Notes
	Object Class Categories		Obligated /			Obligated /			Obligated /		
		Awarded	Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Expended	Unobligated	
Α	Personnel	465,65	2 472,592	(6,940)	-	-	-	465,652	472,592	(6,940)	Expenses are from 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2017.
В	Fringe Benefits	178,08	6 203,027	(24,941)	-	-	-	178,086	203,027	(24,941)	Budget period is 09/01/2016 - 08/31/2017.
C	Travel	-	-	-	11,072	10,747	325	11,072	10,747	325	
D	Equipment	20,00	0 1,632	18,368	-	-	-	20,000	1,632	18,368	
E	Supplies	25,12	0 48,563	(23,443)	-	-	-	25,120	48,563	(23,443)	
	Contractual	316,37	3 312,915	3,458	-	-	-	316,373	312,915	3,458	
G	Facilities/Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Н	Renovations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
T	Other	44,8	0 64,144	(19,314)	28,651	28,651	(0)	73,481	92,795	(19,314)	
J	Total (A-I)	1,050,06	1,102,873	(52,812)	39,723	39,398	325	1,089,784	1,142,271	(52,487)	
K	Indirect Charges	38,96	7 30,816	8,151	-	-	-	38,967	30,816	8,151	
Ľ	Total (J-K)	1,089,02	1,133,688	(44,660)	39,723	39,398	325	1,128,751	1,173,087	(44,336)	



## **Early Head Start (FS EHS)**



**Program Description** 

Early Head Start provides high quality, culturally sensitive child development and parent support in homes and centers.

**Spartanburg County First** 

County First			
Health Services	ССР		✓ R
Children Served With Disabilities	13 (10%)	23	th
Improve the quality of early education for young Children Seewed With Medical attorns resented on the	First (100)%	20	✓ 90 ty
Children with Health Insurance	100%	75	J
Child istrict has some Home  FS EHS contracts with two school districts to p	105 (81%) rovide	13	U (03%)
Pregnant Women Who Received Dental Services	n/a		10%
Children Up to Date on Immunizations	95%		86%
Pregnant Women Rec'd Post-Natal EHS Vicit	n/a	1	00%
Healt	2		
		~~	1

Healt	2		
FS EI		CC	P
Funde			80
Averag	No.		80
Numbe		1	29
Number	1	1	111
Percenta	18	100	0%
Percenta	83%	84	1%
# of Pregnant Women Served	31		n/a
# of Children & Families on Waitlist	29		15

#### **School Readiness**

- Readiness does not happen at the same time or in he same way for all children
- 90% of Early Head Start children were developing ypically based on GOLD Assessment-April 2017

ES FITS by the Number\$						
Chile Cal	erral marship					
FURBING SOURCE Moking	ers, PHBIB	1110 VIB 7				
State Funding Information	Ressation sur	th a	ves			
South Carolina First Steps		Vev and -				
Federal Funding	\$1,500,7650	n\$1,529,727	red			
Child Carny Parage State	Parti 268,496	\$ 1,448,538	i /			
*CACH*	n\$ class 37,532	nsa Wei36,202	i /			
* <b>AB</b> @	\$ 3,984	\$ 21,811				
Private Funding	\$ 3,208	\$ 18:639				
School District 7	\$ 5.208	\$ 10.031	i /			
Parent Ce Pays	\$ 2'003 c 004'000	\$ 2'616 64 000 F00	1/			
†8 <b>13</b> 1:	\$1,503,762	\$1:539:743				
* GAGFP = GHIId and Adult Gare Food Program						
* A B.C. A B.C. Children Bus Bus sweet	er ood riogram					

\* ABC = ABC Childcare Program



## Early Head Start cont.



First Steps successfully managed two Early Head Start programs in the 2016-2017 program year.

The following Childcare Partnerships participate in the programs:

- > <u>Traditional EHS:</u> SCSDB Kelly's Kids, Woodruff Primary, Kings and Queens, Roy C. Henderson and the Early Learning Center.
- **Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (CCP):** The Sunshine House, Early Learning Center, Mother Goose and Abundant Blessings

#### Revised Performance Standards &

Curriculum Fidelity Team were initiated this year.

**16,891 CACFP** meals were served to traditionsl **EHS** children in 2016-17

**22,889 CACFP** meals were served to **EHS-CCP** children in 2016-17.

## By the Numbers

EHS Parents read to their children a total of 1053.25 hours this year! CCP Families read to their children a total of 215 hours



# Early Head Start Federal Review & Audit Results

#### **Results Audit**

The A133 Single Audit of 2015-2016 was completed with no material findings and was filed with the Federal Clearinghouse in March 2017.

#### **Results Federal Review**

The triennial review was held January 6-10, 2014. South Carolina First Steps to Spartanburg County was found noncompliant for Part 1306- Head Start Staffing Requirements and Program Options- Grantees implementing a homebased program option must: maintain an average caseload of 10-12 families per home visitor with a maximum caseload of 12 families for any individual home visitor

The agency created a Home-Based Program Option Compliance Plan which addressed and corrected the staffing problem which was sent to Atlanta in April 2014. A letter was received from Ann Linehan, Acting Director, Office of Head Start in August stating that the information provided to ACF was sufficient to close the previously identified findings.

#### **Community Referrals!!**

- > EHS received 631
- CCP received 115

Staff provided support and followup regarding family's receipt and satisfaction with referral services.

#### **Socialization Activities**

➤ EHS: 65 parents & children attended 25 events in the library, park or an apple farm!

#### **Parent Engagement Activities**

Families received training and education throughout the year on topics mandated by EHS and based upon community needs.

- > EHS Families: 6039 parent engagement events
- > CCP Families: 653 parent engagement events

Training topics included: child health, mental health and nutrition, parenting, budgeting, pedestrian safety and school readiness.



# Quality Counts

Quality Counts serves *more than 50% of the eligible child care programs* in Spartanburg County. Quality Counts, through an education oversight grant, is working with nine 4K classrooms in Spartanburg School Districts 3 and 7.



## Quality Counts Program Information

#### What is Quality Counts?

Quality Counts is an evidence-based initiative that uses a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework to improve the quality in early care and education programs. Quality Counts began as a pilot in January 2012 and went to full implementation in July 2013.

What is the Goal of Quality Counts?

Quality Counts is a quality enhancement strategy designed to raise and sustain the level of quality in early care and education programs with the goal that all children will arrive at school better prepared for school success.

#### Who is Participating?

Quality Counts is open to all early care and education centers who are licensed, registered, or approved by DSS. Approximately **52%** of the eligible programs in Spartanburg County are participating.

#### **Quality Counts Celebrates 5 Years**

On March 15, 2017 Quality Counts 5 Year Celebration was held at the Mary Black Foundation. The event celebrated the recognized more than 36 child care directors who have made a commitment to building and sustaining quality learning environments. Dr. John Stockwell, Executive Director for Spartanburg Academic Movement, had a powerful presentation for the QC Directors. He not only praised the efforts of Quality Counts centers but shared the importance of early care and education and the vital role it plays in creating a healthy community.

Barbara Manoski, Director Quality Counts

#### **Spartanburg County First Steps**

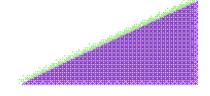
900 South Pine Street, Suite C | Spartanburg SC, 29302 Phone- 864-327-4900 www.1steps.org

#### **Quality Counts Partners**

Quality Counts is a partnership between the Mary Black Foundation and Spartanburg County First Steps. Public-private partnerships are essential to the success of Quality Counts. These partnerships support the credibility and visibility of Quality Counts in the community.

#### Palmetto Leadership Academy

Amber James (Boiling Springs Child Care), Cyndie Cooper (Learning Years), Felicia Spurgeon-Norris (Creative Kids Learning), Melissa Boone (Maximum Child Learning Center), Michelle Brittain (Miss Tammy's Little Learning Center – Landrum), Joyce Ruth (Legacy Christian School), Linda Lawson (Spartanburg Regional Ida Thompson Child Development Center), and Tammy Edwards (My House Day Care) have been chosen for the first Palmetto Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is a 4 month initiative that is designed to increase the knowledge and leadership capacity of child care directors and early learning administrators. Research shows that strong leadership in early care and education programs is directly related to building and sustaining quality care.



### **Funding By the Numbers**

Quality Counts									
Funding Source	Funding Source FY1516 FY1617								
State Funding	\$	308,268	\$	314,557					
South Carolina First Steps	\$	308,268	\$	314,557					
Federal Funding	\$	-	\$	-					
Local Private	\$	208,992	\$	225,174					
Mary Black Foundation	\$	208,992	\$	225,174					
Total:	\$	517,260	\$	539,731					



# **Quality Counts Community Impact**





# **United Way Partnership Benefits Quality Counts Center**

In May of 2017 **Quality Counts** was chosen by Leadership Spartanburg, a program of the United Way of the Piedmont, to be the recipient of a hands-on community improvement project. Abundant Blessings, one of 36 Quality Counts programs, was chosen to receive a "book center

makeover". The 5 member team from Leadership Spartanburg toured the 4K classroom and met with the director, Markesha Jackson to hear her

wishes. Spartanburg Leadership donated books, paint, a bookshelf, a cozy rug, baskets, a lamp, and a sofa to transform the book area. They also painted the walls in the book area a soft shade of green. The transformation encouraged children to play in the book center and prompted Markesha to repaint her entire center. The project was a win for all!



# **Quality Counts Doubles Participation in** "2017 Summer Slide Into Reading Program"

### **Quality Counts by the Numbers**

√	Child Care Providers Served	501
1	Number of Children annulled	

in QC classrooms 2403

✓ Number of TA Visits Provided 722

The second year for the Summer Slide Into Reading program was a huge success. The number of participating centers doubled from last year. **Quality Counts** partnered with **Scholastic Books** and chose fun books like the *Interrupting Chicken* and *How do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* for 3 and 4 year olds to enjoy during the summer months. The 8 week program challenged Quality Counts classrooms to read more than 1400 minutes. Parents could turn in reading sheets from home that counted toward the classroom total. The classrooms met their goal and collectively read 126,866! More than 500 three and four year olds participated. Just one more way to help our youngest learners get ready for school!

# **Professional Development** is Foundational in Building Quality

Quality Counts offered more than 100 hours of professional development to participating child care providers. The training calendar is developed every 6 months after the Quality Counts Team studies trends and assessment results to determine the needs of providers. During the year Jessica Flowers presented 14.5 hours of Conscious Discipline, and Paula Udell presented 12 hours of Creative Curriculum. A professional development highlight was a special evening of training on Outdoor Learning Environments by Mary Mackenzie from Surry, England. The Quality Counts team also provided training for programs to meet their specific needs.



## **Nurse-Family Partnership**



Ielping vulnerable first-time moms empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

#### **Program Description**

#### NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP (NFP) IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship — every dollar invested in NFP can yield more than five dollars in return.

#### NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS

- 1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good, preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances
- 2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care
- **3.** Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

Nurse Family Partnership					
Funding Source	FY1516		FY1617		
State Funding	\$	-	\$	-	
South Carolina First Steps	\$	-	\$	-	
Federal Funding	\$	368,829	\$	269,488	
Children's Trust Fund of SC	\$	368,829	\$	269,488	
Local Private	\$	368,829	\$	24,012	
Duke Endowment	\$	339,229	\$	-	
United Way of the Piedmont	\$	29,600	\$	24,012	
Total:	\$	737,658	\$	293,500	

#### Why NFP Works

NFP is supported by the most extensive research foundation of any maternal and child health program. Three randomized controlled trials in 1997, 1988 and 1994 - which are still being examined today for long-term impact – show consistently proven results in the areas of improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased intervals between births, increased material employment, and improved school readiness.

#### **Program Results 2009-2016**

#### **Spartanburg County NFP by the Numbers**

- 613 Clients served
- 440 Babies Born to Program
- **√** 75% moms initiating breastfeeding.
- Premature Birth rate 8.9%
- 98% of children immunized
- 9.5% Subsequent pregnancies

### Thank you to our partners!

DHEC Region 2
Spartanburg Regional Hospital Systems
United Way of the Piedmont
Congregational Nursing Program
Spartanburg Regional Home Care
Spartanburg County First Steps
SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
The Duke Endowment
Children's Trust of South Carolina



In Spartanburg County, Nurse-Family
Partnership is implemented through
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System,
Home Health Division and Spartanburg
County First Steps serves as Fiscal Manager
and hosts the Community Advisory Board.

#### **Spartanburg County First Steps**

900 South Pine Street, Suite C | Spartanburg SC, 29302 Phone- 864-327-4900 www.1steps.org

% Single Mothers	88.7
% < HS Diploma	59.7



## **Getting Children Ready for School**

Early of the County School District Seven set as a priority an early learning center concept in the Park Hills community.

Principal Wanda Owens-Jackson said ... "It will help us to get on one chord, as far as serving our early learners. We'll be able to pool our resources and make this a wonderful experience for our early learners."

Over 20 partnerships were formed to make this early education effort possible including Spartanburg First Steps Early Head Start, the Mary Black Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, ReGenesis Community Health Center, Silver Hill United Methodist Church, Spartanburg County Adult Education Program, Spartanburg County Foundation, Spartanburg Housing Authority, Spartanburg Regional Foundation and others.

Name	Position	Board Category		
Kim Ashby	Spartanburg County School District Two	School District Representative		
Terrill Banks	Former Early Head Start Parent	Parent		
Tamara Cook 2016-201 USG Aptate Nursin Professor First Steps Partner Mealt Bara Provider				
Loreta Dylgieri	SC School for the Deaf and Blind	Early Education		
Wanda Fowler	Middle Tyger Community Center, ED. Retired	School District Representative		
Carolyn Gibson	Legislative Appointee	State Apointee		
Clarisa Giles	Nurse Family Partnership, Director	Healthcare Provider		
Amy Goulding	Attorney – 7 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office	Attorney		
Ava Hughes	Arts Education Director/Chapman Cultural Center	Business		
Dr. Susan Little	Spartanburg County School District Three	School District Representative		
Sarah Love	Childcare, Early Childhood Development	Children, Early Childhood		
Kim McAbee	Spartanburg County School District Four	School District Representative		
Leverne McBeth	Spartanburg County Library	Library Services		
Bob Page	Early Childhood Education	Retired Principal		
Terry Pruitt	Spartanburg County School District Seven	School District Representative		
Anna Strom, CPA	McAbee, Talbot, Halliday (CPA)	Fiscal – Required by EHS		





**First Steps** is the lead agency for BabyNet, South Carolina's early intervention system for children under 3. Parents of children 0-2 years old with disabilities or suspected developmental delays should contact their local BabyNet office to schedule an evaluation.

Local BabyNet Office: Serving Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union

#### **Location:**

S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind 355 Cedar Springs Road Spartanburg, SC 29302 **Lead Supervisor: Melissa Swann** 

Office: 864.591.8645 Cell:864.360.4102

Main Telephone Line: 864-591-8641

BabyNet is South Carolina's interagency early intervention system for infants and toddlers under three years of age with developmental delays, or who have conditions associated with developmental delays.

BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays with the professional resources available within the community. Services are provided in everyday routines, activities and places relevant to the life of the family. BabyNet is funded and regulated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and managed through South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.

Anyone (a parent, doctor, caregiver, teacher or friend) can make a referral by the number listed below. The earlier a baby or toddler receives help, the better!

To make a referral or to get more information call <u>1-877-621-0865</u> or send an email to <u>babynet@scfirststeps.org</u> for assistance





### Getting children ready for school success

## The Goals of First Steps

- (1) Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children
- (2) Increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems
- (3) Promote highquality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development
- (4) Provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed
- (5) Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

