

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Navajo/Apache Region



2015 IMPACT REPORT

SCHOOL SUCCESS BEGINS AT BIRTH



90% OF A CHILD'S CRITICAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN,

so early experiences lay the foundation for success in school and in life. Arizonans created First Things First (FTF) to give more children the tools they need to arrive at school prepared to meet our state's high expectations. FTF provides resources and professional expertise then combines it with local decision-making to build on the work of community organizations impacting children and families. Local volunteers – parents, educators, business professionals, philanthropists, faith leaders and tribal representatives – decide how the funds will be used to best improve school readiness for children in their area.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS A STATE CAN MAKE

Research by Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman showed that every \$1 invested in early childhood can yield returns between \$4 and \$16. Early literacy and its impact on school success is one of the best examples of the return on investment in early childhood. High quality early learning experiences, rich in language and literacy, reduce early learning gaps and ensure that children are ready to start reading when they enter kindergarten.



Gaps in children's vocabulary start to appear as early as **18 MONTHS.**



By the time children are **3 & 4 YEARS OLD,** their vocabulary, attention and general knowledge are predictors of **THIRD & FOURTH GRADE** reading comprehension.



THIRD GRADE reading ability is one of the best predictors of **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.**



As an early childhood system partner, First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies that: strengthen families in their role as their child's first teacher; improve the quality of early learning environments like preschool and child care, and expand access to those programs; and, promote prevention and early identification of health problems that could impact learning later on. By getting more Arizona kids ready for school, FTF helps put children on a path to academic success that benefits them, our communities and our state.

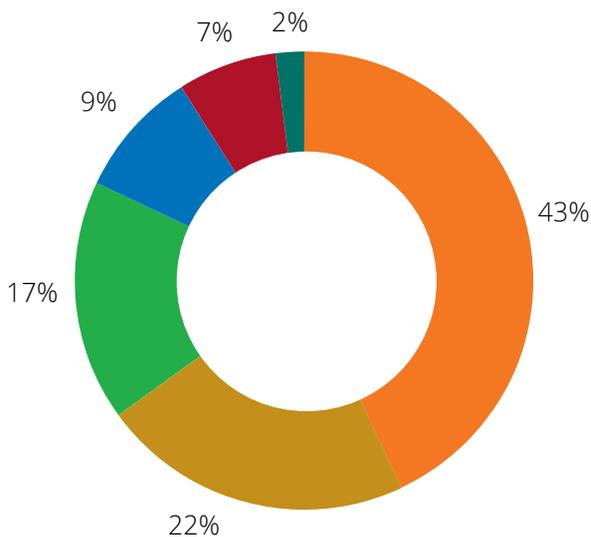
\$1



INVESTED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD YIELDS UP TO A \$16 RETURN

FISCAL YEAR 2015 IMPACT

NAVAJO/APACHE FY2015 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



- Preventive Health \$728,632.81**
 Undetected or untreated health issues can impact learning later on.
- Workforce Development and Training \$378,025.02**
 A child's relationships with early caregivers impact whether her brain will develop in ways that promote learning.
- Quality Preschool and Child Care \$292,503.19**
 Children exposed to high quality early learning do better in school and are more likely to graduate.
- Strengthening Families and Early Literacy \$145,146.78**
 Families are a child's first and best teachers.
- Parent and Community Awareness \$114,617**
 We all have a shared responsibility to help children arrive at school prepared to succeed.
- Research and Accountability \$25,994.85**
 Measuring effectiveness and promoting continuous quality improvement rely on robust, accurate data.

Total = \$1,684,919.65

- 
129 Children had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 
58 Infants, toddlers and preschoolers received scholarships to access high quality early learning through preschool or child care.
- 
1,551 Families of new children received support from trained providers (including voluntary in-home visits, if desired) to link with resources to support their child's health and learning, enhance their parenting skills and deal with specific challenges, including first-time parenting, parenting a child with special needs, or dealing with multiple births.
- 
826 Families of newborns left the hospital with tools to help them support their child's health and learning.
- 
1,627 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against dental decay.
- 
1,274 Screenings completed to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues in young kids and prevent learning challenges later on.

INVESTING IN SCHOOL READINESS



SUPPORT FOR HOLBROOK GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

Cathy Grant's grandson had a rough start in life. When he and his younger sister came to live with Grant, Jacob was almost 4. Yet, he had speech delays and was extremely hyperactive. Grant, who had not cared for young children in 30 years, was at a loss.

Her pediatrician recommended Healthy Steps for Young Children, funded by First Things First. Healthy Steps customizes services to meet individual family needs and goals, including: enhanced well-child care, home visits, informational material, parent groups and links to community resources.

"They helped by giving me age appropriate materials for Jacob, so I would know what to expect and help him reach his goals to catch up with his age group," Grant said.

She also learned what to do to deal with frequent temper tantrums, including how to stay in control and model good behavior. And, a developmental screening for Jacob helped get him early intervention to special education services.

Grant said she doesn't know where Jacob - now 7 and entering 2nd grade - would be without Healthy Steps. "He's so close to being caught up to his age group," she said. "Healthy Steps was instrumental in Jacob's coming along as well as he did; the program got him interested in books and colors and prepared him for school."

NAVAJO APACHE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Leslie Meyer, Chair
Byron Lewis, Vice Chair
Kimberly Avery
Carrie Classay
Ryan Cluff
Claude Endfield

Doug Harris
Cynthia Loomis
Kalman Mannis
Nestor Montoya
Victoria Schmitt

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Director
kdallen@azftf.gov
928.532.5041

FUNDED PARTNERS - FY2015

Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf
of University of Arizona
Central Arizona College
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Navajo County Library District
Navajo County Public Health Services District
North Country HealthCare

Northland Pioneer College
Pima County Health Department
Southwest Human Development
Summit Healthcare Association
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Valley of the Sun United Way