

Did you know?

...that a baby's brain development begins earlier and is more critical than previously thought

...that love, touch, and verbal communication are necessary factors in the proper development of a child's brain



How can I get involved?

- Volunteer and recruit volunteers to help young children in your community.
- Contact us to find out about volunteer opportunities and to provide contributions and support to First Steps programs.
- Find out how your faith community, civic group, or company can be involved in First Steps.
- Visit or write your legislators to tell them about the importance of early childhood development and to support programs for young children.

CHARLESTON COUNTY FIRST STEPS PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Board meetings are open to the public.
Please visit our website for Board meeting dates, time, and location.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Executive Director

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Serving Charleston County Children, Families, and
Early Care Professionals

CHARLESTON COUNTY FIRST STEPS IS
a non-profit county partnership of
South Carolina First Steps
to School Readiness



Helping you prepare your child to
CHARLESTON COUNTY
FIRST STEPS
Getting children ready for school.
Teach school healthy and ready to learn



WHO WE ARE

A South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative established to improve school readiness for families with children from **birth to 5**.

The only statewide entity solely devoted to increasing school readiness

A grassroots partnership identifying **public and private** resources and **collaborative** opportunities among:

- Business and community leaders
- Early education professionals
- Faith-based community
- Parents of preschool children

WHAT WE DO

Provide early education services that are **individualized, comprehensive, and outcomes driven**.

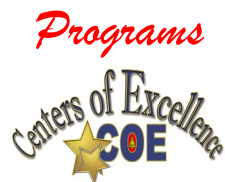
- Partner with child care professionals and parents to ensure children make healthy progress along developmental stages.
- Utilize research-based curricula
- Administer age-appropriate screenings and assessments



OUR SERVICES

- Parents As Teachers Home Visitation
- Childcare Facility Quality Enhancement
- Childcare Center Staff Training & Development
- Child Care Scholarships

Charleston County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership



Carousel Early Childhood Center • New Israel CDC
Nia Infant and Toddler CDC • The Preschool Academy
Rising Star Development Center

Wrap-around Integrated Services include:

1. Research-based Curriculum
 2. Age-appropriate assessments
 3. High-quality Parent Education Component
 4. Health Component
 5. Facility Quality Enhancement and Center Staff Training & Development
 6. Mentoring and Technical Assistance
 7. Child Care Scholarships for At-risk Children
- Mini grants are awarded and technical assistance is provided;
 - Child care scholarships are provided to select families enrolled in CCFS Centers of Excellence (COE).



- Parents as Teachers (PAT) parenting program enhances child development and school achievement with the guidance of a professionally trained parent educator utilizing the Parents As Teachers program.
- PAT focuses on the needs of at-risk, single and teen parents.
- PAT brings families together to prepare children for the first grade; focus remains on the child and the parent's role in the education of the child.
- Child care scholarships are provided to select families enrolled in CCFS Centers of Excellence (COE).
- Charleston County First Steps is in partnership with the Charleston County School District Early Head Start program to provide services to its enrolled home-based families.

Facility Quality Enhancement & Center Staff Training and Development

- Technical assistance is provided to eligible child care centers to enhance program quality and increase the number of DSS approved programs in the county.
- Provide periodic public trainings through collaborative partnerships
- Staff development training is provided for center directors and teachers.



Charleston County First Steps is in partnership with Berkeley and Dorchester County First Steps and DHEC Region 7 to support implementation of the Nurse-Family Partnership initiative in the Tri-county.

Participant Eligibility Criteria:

1. First-time, low-income mothers
2. Expectant mothers between 16 and 28 weeks of pregnancy
3. Medicaid eligible

Note: Eligible mothers may enroll any time up to 28 weeks into pregnancy. If a mother enrolls prior to her 16th week of pregnancy, NFP services would not start until the 16th week.

Nurse-Family Partnership Goals:

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes
2. Improve child health and development
3. Improve economic self-sufficiency of the family

Program Contact Information:

Ms. Victoria Manigault, Nurse Supervisor
CBD Nurse-Family Partnership
SC DHEC Region 7
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