PIMA SOUTH REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

FIRST THINGS FIRST

EARLY EXPERIENCES BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR A LIFETIME
90% OF A CHILD’S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. Research shows that the quality of a child's early life experiences shape how their brain develops.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

“We now know that literacy is an important determinant of eventual success in school and career. In addition, higher literacy levels lead to stronger economic development in our communities. Literacy is not only important to our most precious resources – our children – it is important to overall community well-being.”

Dr. Joseph Hentges
Governor
District 5500 Rotary 2017-2018 and
2018 Pima South Champion for Children

That’s why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK

Early Childhood Funds
Allotted by FTF State Board

Local Decision-Making
Each region has 11 volunteer regional partnership council members representing their community. Based on the area's early childhood needs, each council prioritizes goals and strategies to help children birth to age 5 and their families.

Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers
First Things First offers grant opportunities; providers implement programs and services in communities.

Community Collaborations
Regions also collaborate with organizations and entities to build a network of programs and services to better support young children.

THIS RESULTS IN
MORE KIDS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN
FISCAL YEAR 2018 PIMA SOUTH REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few highlights of the proven programs and innovative strategies from this region.

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY**

- **760** Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.

**QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE**

- **3,150** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- **185** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.
- **395** Early childhood educators attended a training or session to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

**PREVENTIVE HEALTH**

- **963** Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.
- **2,573** Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

VAIL PRESCHOOLER BUILDS HIS PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

The first few days of preschool were rough for Logan Reller. There were tears, said his mom, Christy Reller. Logan had transitioned to the preschool room, after having had the luxury of his mom being one of his first preschool teachers in the toddler room at Christ Lutheran Creation School in Vail.

It took him a few days to adjust, but his new teacher, Jennifer Hook, continued to work with him to bring him out of his shell.

“This is where he learned how to develop relationships with other adults,” Reller said.

Hook, who is also the preschool’s director, and her team of teachers work with children to develop academic and social-emotional skills.

For a student like Logan, it’s the social-emotional skills that he learned in preschool that have had the most impact on his life, Reller said.

The early years are when they learn to regulate themselves, Reller said. Those type of life skills serve the children as they grow older and more responsible.

Today, Logan is almost 5 and in kindergarten. He has a best friend and can interact with different groups of friends. “You don’t usually start to see those type of interpersonal skills until around first grade,” Reller said.

Logan is also problem solving on his own.

“At home, he comes up with his own solution if he has a problem with his brother,” Reller said. For example, if they both want to play with their pet bunny, Logan will suggest that his brother gets to hold the bunny for five minutes, then it’s his turn.

“He understands what behavior is expected of him,” Reller said.
The FTF Pima South Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds will be used to best support the development, education and health of young children birth to age 5. FTF invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

**FY18 TOTAL REGIONAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Child Care and Preschool</td>
<td>$2,243,118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening Families</td>
<td>$2,160,788</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce Development and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preventive Health</td>
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<td>Parent and Community Awareness</td>
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<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Coordinating Support</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,876,837</strong></td>
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The Pima South Region is defined as the southern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O’odham Nation, plus a small part of Santa Cruz County around the Amado community. The Pima South Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 4 and 14. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-South