

FIRST THINGS FIRST

San Carlos 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.

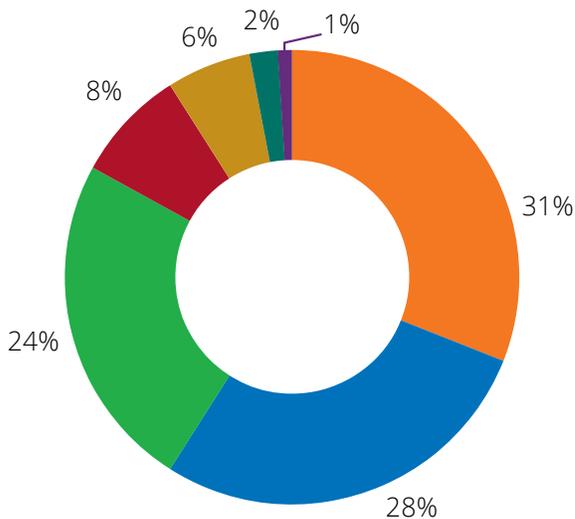
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INVESTED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD YIELDS UP TO A **\$16 RETURN**

FISCAL YEAR 2015 IMPACT

SAN CARLOS APACHE FY2015 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



- Preventive Health \$186,112.48**
 Undetected or untreated health issues can impact learning later on.
- Strengthening Families and Early Literacy \$168,320.17**
 Families are a child's first and best teachers.
- Quality Preschool and Child Care \$146,890.76**
 Children exposed to high quality early learning do better in school and are more likely to graduate.
- Parent and Community Awareness \$47,666.88**
 We all have a shared responsibility to help children arrive at school prepared to succeed.
- Workforce Development and Training \$34,369.13**
 A child's relationships with early caregivers impact whether her brain will develop in ways that promote learning.
- Research and Accountability \$11,116.52**
 Measuring effectiveness and promoting continuous quality improvement rely on robust, accurate data.
- System Coordination \$8,725.03**
 Collaboration among system partners maximizes resources and effectiveness.

Total = \$603,200.97

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312 Children had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 
7,275 Books distributed to families of young children to encourage daily reading with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- 
116 Workshops held to engage parents and other caregivers in reading to young children.
- 
570 Food boxes distributed to give young children access to nutritious meals.
- 
632 Adult caregivers attended classes on the importance of nutrition and physical activity to the healthy development of young children.
- 
65 Screenings completed to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues in young kids and prevent learning challenges later on.

INVESTING IN SCHOOL READINESS



EARLY LITERACY EXPERIENCES LEAD TO THIRD GRADE READING SUCCESS

Marlencia Benally started taking her son, Raivis to story time at the San Carlos Library when he was around one and a half years old.

A librarian told Benally about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a program funded in part by First Things First that mails a free book each month to children until they turn 5. As the first books began to arrive, Benally and her husband began reading to Raivis every night. Benally was hopeful reading the books would help her son's speech, since he had developed a slight stutter.

The books started with simple stories, then got more complex as Raivis grew. Soon, he was asking for books to be read throughout the day and in the evening. Benally took cues from what she was hearing during story time at the library and began asking Raivis questions about the books they were reading, which expanded his vocabulary, imagination and critical thinking.

When Raivis was around 3 years old, the family was in the car, approaching a stop sign. "Mom, look, S-T-O-P, you have to stop," Raivis said. Benally was surprised. "I didn't know he was already learning to read," she said.

Benally noticed that Raivis has a larger vocabulary than many of his peers. She also thinks reading helped his confidence. When he started kindergarten, he loved to model proper reading behavior to his classmates and his teacher as well. Raivis, who is now 7, continues to be a voracious reader and is doing well in school, to his mother's delight. "I didn't think that this is where reading would be able to take him."



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FUNDED PARTNERS - FY2015

Gila County Library District
Maricopa County Department of Public Health*
Navajo County Public Health Services District*
Pima County Health Department*
San Carlos Apache Tribe

Southwest Human Development*
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension*
Valley of the Sun United Way*

**After a competitive process, these grantees were selected by the First Things First Board to implement statewide and/or multi-regional strategies that the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council voted to participate in.*