

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

First Things First (FTF) works in five priority service areas, proven by decades of research to be instrumental in helping young kids get ready for school.



STRONG FAMILIES feel supported in their role as a child's first teachers.

Children who are read to every day do better in school. Children who have supportive parents are healthier and develop better social skills. First Things First supports families as they nurture and teach their children, by providing voluntary health and education services in their communities and at home.

Our programs stress the importance of early education and health, teach valuable parenting skills and emphasize the importance of reading to children from an early age. Our Arizona Parent Kit, offered free to the parents of every Arizona newborn before they leave the hospital, is filled with simple, user-friendly resources that help parents through their most difficult questions or challenges.

FTF Fiscal Year 2009-2012
Commitment for STRONG FAMILIES
\$102 Million

HEALTHY CHILDREN have access to health care services they need to grow and learn.

Two of the leading reasons for school absenteeism are: undiagnosed developmental problems, and chronic health conditions caused by a lack of preventative care. These can harm a child's performance in school, often leading to remediation or retention.

First Things First supports healthy children by helping families identify health insurance options, connecting them to reliable health care, and providing access to screenings for oral health, medical and developmental issues. FTF also supplies families with information and resources on nutrition, healthy weight, physical activity, and injury prevention.

FTF also funds training in needed specialty areas, like speech therapy for children, and offers incentives for health care providers to work in underserved areas.



FTF Fiscal Year 2009-2012
Commitment for HEALTHY CHILDREN
\$71 Million

QUALITY EARLY LEARNING gives kids high-quality learning environments focused on early literacy.

Children are born learning, and education begins at birth. Those exposed to high quality early education are more likely to succeed in school, and advance into college and successful careers.

First Things First supports quality early learning by helping center- and home-based child care providers improve the quality of their teaching, learning materials and facilities. Scholarships and grants to support the expansion of quality programs also help more families afford quality early education for their children. In 2012, FTF also will offer families a guide to the quality of early education providers, so parents can make informed choices for their children.

FTF Fiscal Year 2009-2012

Commitment for QUALITY EARLY LEARNING
\$151 Million



ENGAGED COMMUNITIES are prepared to be champions for young kids.

First Things First supports public education and awareness by providing accessible information and resources on early childhood development and health and the benefits of this commitment for every citizen of Arizona.

FTF Fiscal Year 2009-2012

Commitment for ENGAGED COMMUNITIES
\$15 Million

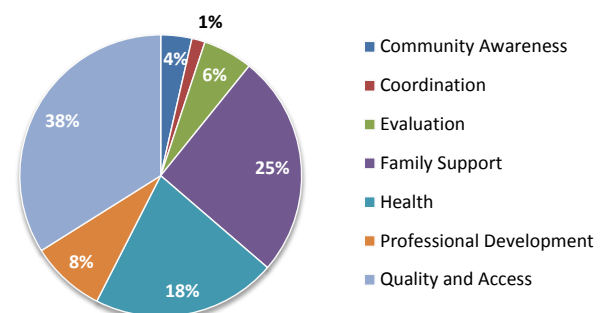
HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS have the skills and the commitment needed to work with young kids.

Every moment is a teachable moment for a young child. Young kids with excellent teachers learn more and benefit from early bonding, social and emotional development. First Things First supports skilled teachers and caregivers by providing scholarships for college coursework leading to certification and degrees in early childhood development or education. FTF also rewards teachers who obtain their certification or degree and stay in their positions for longer periods of time. FTF funds high-quality training for child care providers, and supports recruitment efforts to increase the number of quality caregivers.

FTF Fiscal Year 2009-2012

Commitment for HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS
\$32 Million

SFY09-12 Total Commitment to Young Kids: \$402 million*



*This figure represents actual fiscal year 2009 & 2010 expenditures, as well as allotments for fiscal years 2011 and 2012.