



90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN.



EAST MARICOPA REGION

2017 IMPACT REPORT

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

From birth to age 5, the brain develops faster than at any other time in life. And how a child's brain develops in these early years will have a lasting impact on their future.

Science has shown that children with positive, nurturing experiences in their early years go on to be healthier and more successful in school and in life. They're more ready for kindergarten. They're more likely to graduate from high school and go on to college. They're more prepared for a successful career and to be contributing members of their communities.



That's why Arizonans created First Things First – to support the development and learning of our youngest children. First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies that:



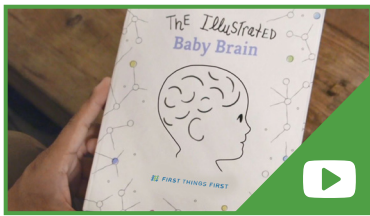
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EARLY LEARNING in child care and preschool programs.



PROMOTE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT to ensure that kids arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.



WATCH OUR VIDEO

to learn more about early childhood brain development.

<http://www.firstthingsfirst.org/why-early-childhood-matters/the-first-five-years>

EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE EAST MARICOPA REGION

“The East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council made an intentional effort in 2017 to identify areas where large populations in our region were experiencing poverty and unmet needs for a thriving life. As a result, we focused on improving children's health through funding care coordination/medical homes, as well as family support with a focus on parenting skills. We have also worked to improve early learning through improving quality care at child care centers, access to quality child care and professional development for early education teachers.

East Maricopa is proud of its participation in Parents Partners Plus, allowing a centralized intake for home visitation services leading to improved connections for families to services. We believe strongly in systems-building through partnerships with our Read On Arizona communities and cross-regional retreats. And we have increased community outreach and awareness to ensure that we are sharing our messages throughout the region.”

Marie Raymond
Chair, East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

2017 EAST MARICOPA REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

151,620

Parents and caregivers accessed early childhood information and/or resources through family resource centers.

172

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



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

6,899

Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

629

Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

695

Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing, and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

3,090

Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

HOME VISITATION PROGRAM HELPS LAY FOUNDATION OF LEARNING FOR AHWATUKEE GIRL

Like all expecting parents, Marriott Hileman dreamed of raising a successful child. When Sofia was born, Hileman made the decision to stay home so she could support her daughter's development.

However, it wasn't until Hileman discovered Parents as Teachers, a home visitation program funded by First Things First that she got a whole new perspective on early learning and realized just how big her dreams for Sofia could be.

"The huge growth of brain development in the early years was new knowledge for me," Hileman said. "I had no idea that toddlers were capable of learning such advanced concepts."



Parents as Teachers provides voluntary coaching and in-home support for families. For Hileman, that meant a parent educator visited her home in Ahwatukee twice a month.

"My parent educator showed me how to use everyday moments to make learning fun," Hileman said. "This changed how I interacted with Sofia when cooking, shopping, reading and just talking about things in the environment."

Sofia benefited from the program from age 2 to 5, while Hileman gained lessons on parenting, development, literacy, nutrition and social skills to prepare Sofia for school.

By the time Sofia entered kindergarten, Hileman felt her daughter was very prepared and ready for school. Today, Sofia is a confident first grader with a love for reading and learning. Hileman believes that it was the foundation laid in the first five years that made a difference.

"Because of the tools I was given to support her early years, I was inspired to push Sofia to reach her best abilities," Hileman said. "Sofia continues to exceed my dreams, and I know she will go even further in life than I imagined."

MORE LOCAL STORIES

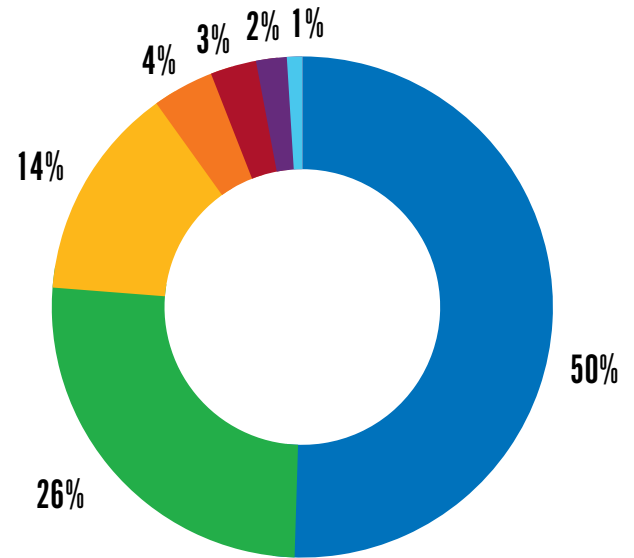
Family resource center helps Tempe mom support daughter's learning
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/east-maricopa

FIRST THINGS FIRST EAST MARICOPA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First East Maricopa 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. First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

FY17 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

	Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$3,953,113
	Strengthening Families	\$1,993,657
	Preventive Health	\$1,084,138
	Workforce Development and Training	\$293,996
	Research and Evaluation	\$197,002
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$186,729
	Coordinating Support	\$78,294
	TOTAL	\$7,786,929

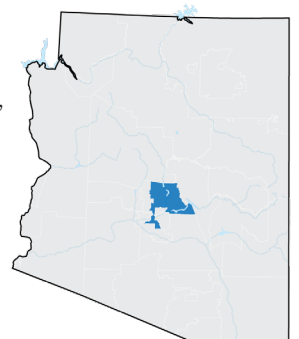


COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marie Raymond, <i>Chair</i>	Dr. Bill Myhr, <i>Vice Chair</i>	
Dr. Lisa Bautista	Lynn Hockenberger	Zeus Rodriguez
Trinity Donovan	Sandra Marken	Dr. Michelle Taylor
Cheryl Foster	Emily Rajakovich	Marin Velarde

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The East Maricopa Region lies entirely within Maricopa County and spans urban communities to the east of Phoenix as well as less densely populated, suburban and rural communities reaching towards the edges of the Maricopa County boundary. This diverse, expansive region includes: three cities – Chandler, Scottsdale and Tempe; five towns – Carefree, Cave Creek, Fountain Hills, Guadalupe and Paradise Valley; three unincorporated places – Goldfield Ranch, Rio Verde and Sun Lakes; two Phoenix neighborhoods – Ahwatukee and Paradise Valley Village; and one Indian reservation – the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. The East Maricopa Region includes Legislative Districts 1, 15, 17, 18, 24, 26 and 28. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/east-maricopa