



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



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION 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:



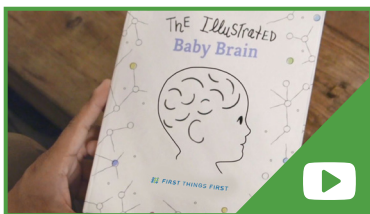
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES in their role as their child's first teacher.



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 TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION TRIBE REGION

“The top issues in the First Things First Tohono O’odham Nation Region are access to high-quality early care and education programs and the lack of highly qualified professionals to serve families. There is also a need for comprehensive family education and support services. In 2017, investments were made in Quality First, child care scholarships, scholarships for early childhood professionals, additional professional development efforts and family support coordination.

“The greatest accomplishments in working toward these goals in 2017 was the participation in Quality First by all the early care and education centers serving the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Quality First four-star rating earned by the Pisinemo Head Start. Results of this work are raising the bar and accessibility of high-quality early learning for the children living in the Tohono O’odham Nation.”

Kymerlii Tenario

Chair, Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

2017 TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REGION HIGHLIGHTS



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 87** Parents and caregivers received coordinated supportive services to help their family thrive.
- 14** 14 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- 327** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 39** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.
- 2** Early childhood professionals received college scholarships to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIP HELPS TOHONO O'ODHAM FAMILY

Catherine Toro wanted her 2-year-old daughter Hailey to be somewhere that would help with her early childhood development.

From the first day they visited Indian Oasis Elementary School Preschool in Sells, they knew it was the right choice. The classroom was vibrantly colored with art work, numbers and letters. Children were creating buildings with blocks and reading aloud from story books or singing songs that rhymed.

The preschool is part of Quality First, a signature program of First Things First (FTF), which partners with child care and preschool providers to make quality improvements that research proves help children thrive. These include improvements such as education for teachers to expand their skills in working with young children and coaching to help providers create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

Toro knew that Indian Oasis provided Quality First scholarships, because her niece was a recipient. The FTF Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council funds Quality First scholarships for children ages 3-5. The scholarships are designed to help eligible families afford quality early care and education for their young children.

When Hailey turned three the following year, Toro applied for the scholarship and enrolled her daughter. Hailey had always been a little shy, but within months of enrollment she began to see an improvement in her social skills. That first year allowed for Hailey to not only grow socially, but to strengthen her literacy and language development. She is now entering kindergarten with the necessary tools to help her succeed, Toro said.

"The program is great for the kids," Toro said. "Helping them learn to read, grow socially and get them out of their comfort zone, which I believe will make an impact for the whole community."




**MORE LOCAL
STORIES**

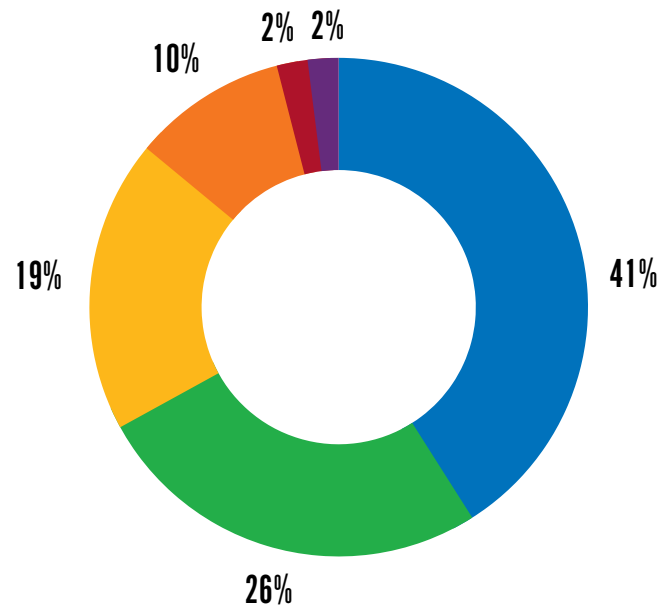
Boy grows literacy skills and bonds with mom through daily reading
firstthingsfirst.org/regions/tohono-oodham-nation

FIRST THINGS FIRST TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The First Things First Tohono O'odham Nation 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	\$313,168
	Strengthening Families	\$201,274
	Workforce Development and Training	\$143,732
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$75,455
	Preventive Health	\$15,747
	Research and Evaluation	\$12,074
	TOTAL	\$761,449



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kymerlii Tenario, *Chair*

Louis Johnson, *Vice Chair*

Albert Adler

Joseph Mease

Elsa Bonilla

Jesse Navarro

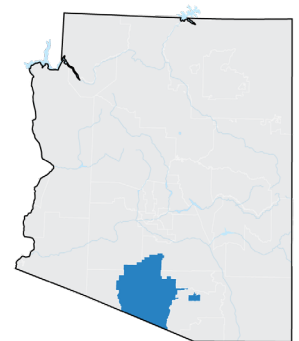
Cheryl Conde

Travis Le Duc,
FTF Regional Director

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The Tohono O'odham Nation's lands are located within the Sonoran Desert in south central Arizona. The boundaries of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Region are the same as the Nation's federally recognized reservation boundaries. These include the noncontiguous San Xavier (Tucson) and San Lucy (Gila Bend & Glendale) districts; Florence Village, a small community outside the City of Florence in Pinal County; and the nine contiguous districts that make up the majority of Western Pima County and small southern portions of Maricopa and Pinal counties. They include Gu Vo, Hicikwan, Sif Oidak, Gu Achi, Pisinemo, Chukut Kuk, Sells, Shuk Toak and Baboquivari districts. The Tohono O'odham Region includes Legislative District 4. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: firstthingsfirst.org/regions/tohono-oodham-nation