



Picturing Arizona's Future

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What is rooted in e is i n c h a n g e Arizona?

- Healthy children
- Successful students
- Thriving communities



90% of a child's brain growth happens before kindergarten.





Young children in Arizona face challenges.

- 1 out of 3 live in poverty
- 2 out of 3 don't go to preschool
- 3 out of 4 have not received necessary developmental screenings

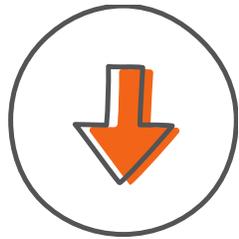




Early childhood impacts a lifetime.

- Kindergarten readiness
- 3rd grade reading scores
- High school graduation rates
- Workforce readiness
- Health and well-being





Early childhood impacts a lifetime.

- Special education/
remediation costs
- Dependence on social welfare
- Crime-related costs
- Incarceration rates



A woman with dark curly hair is shown in profile, holding a baby. The baby is looking towards the camera. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The text "That's why Arizonans created First Things First." is centered over the image in white. Below the text is a play button icon, and at the bottom is a white banner with the hashtag "# FIRST THINGS FIRST" in blue.

That's why Arizonans created
First Things First.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

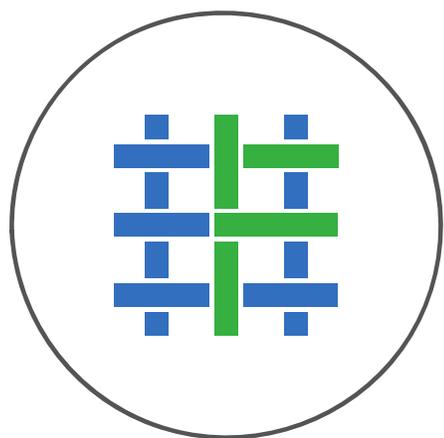
FIRST THINGS FIRST

- Created by Arizonans
- Local funding, local decision-making
- 93% of funds go to programs for young children and families





This is **how we work.**



First Things First



Grantees & Partners



Children & Families



Quality matters in child
care and preschool.



62,215 children

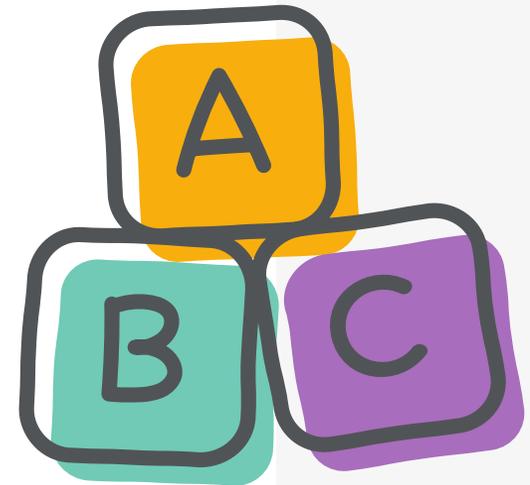
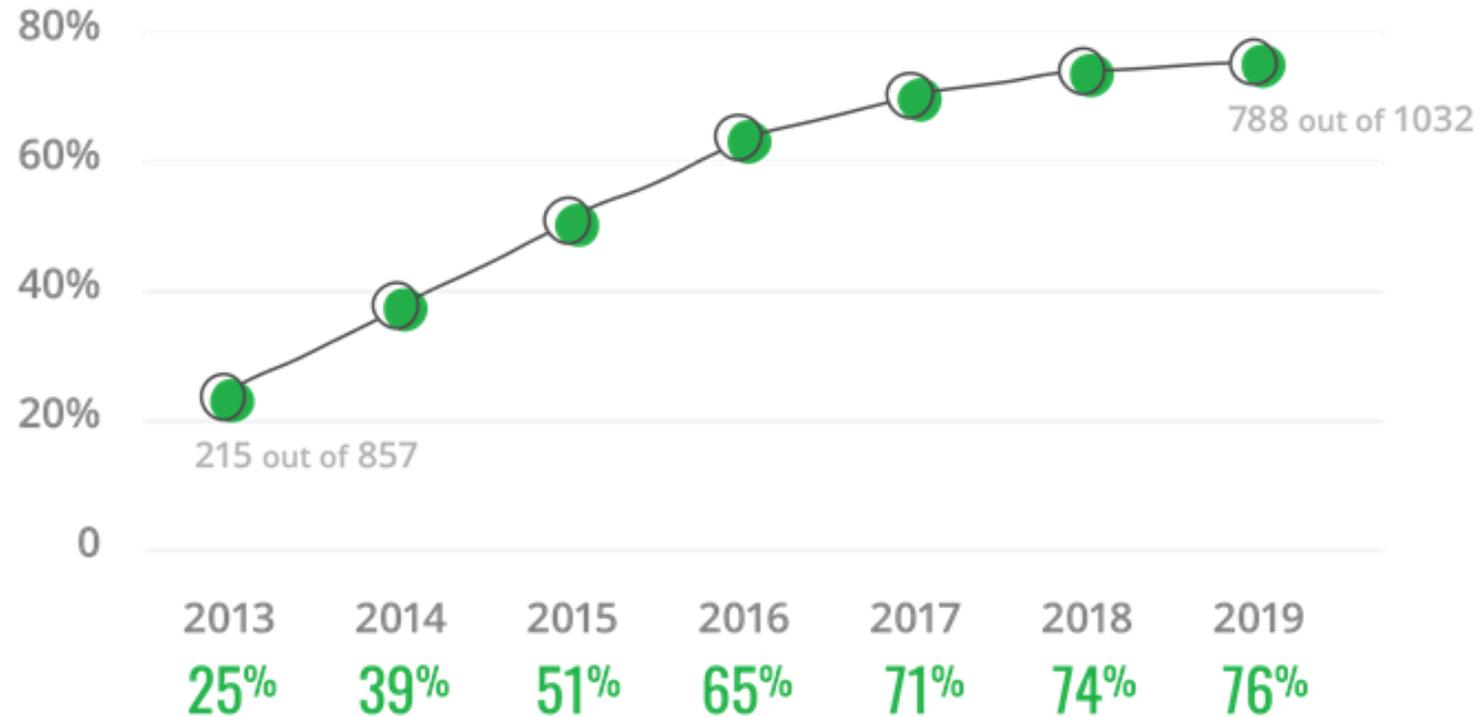
were in programs committed to quality improvement through Quality First.



Our Impact: Early Learning



Increase in the number and percentage of Quality First participants that meet/exceed quality standards (3-5 stars)





Strong families build
strong communities.



4,140 families

participated in voluntary
home visiting programs.



A photograph of a woman holding a baby, overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The woman is on the right, looking towards the baby on the left. The baby is smiling. The text is centered over the image.

The early years are the
foundation for lifelong health
and well-being.



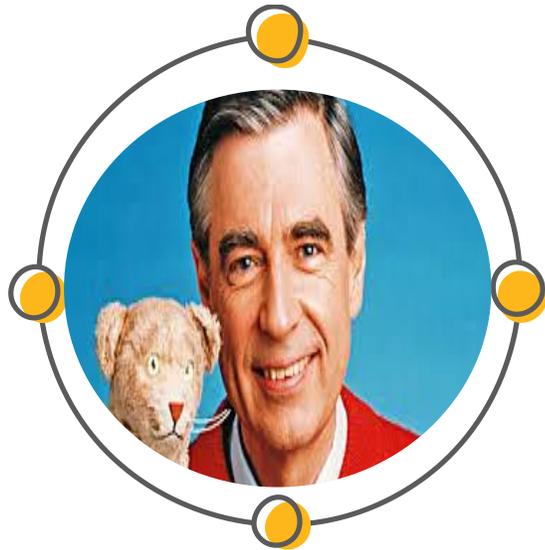
16,759 children

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





Early childhood matters.



“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

Fred Rogers

(aka Mr. Rogers, an ordained minister)



Everyone has a role to play.



What can you do?

- Invite us to share the early childhood story with others -- We can do presentations to staff, faith-based or any community groups.
- Visit [FirstThingsFirst.org](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org) for research-based evidence on why early childhood matters.
- Contact us for a meeting and we will discuss what ways works best for you.

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