

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING



OUR VISION

Every child will enter school healthy and ready to learn.

OUR MISSION

Ensure children start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults in their lives.

WE DO THIS BY:

- ✓ Connecting families and child-serving organizations with services and programs
- ✓ Providing programs with support that focus on early care and education, family support, health, and early literacy
- ✓ Increasing classroom quality and professional development in early childhood programs
- ✓ Building partnerships with families to promote child health, wellbeing, and learning

WHY WE FOCUS ON YOUNG CHILDREN

brain development

strong families

prosperous communities



90% OF BRAIN ARCHITECTURE IS BUILT BY AGE 5.

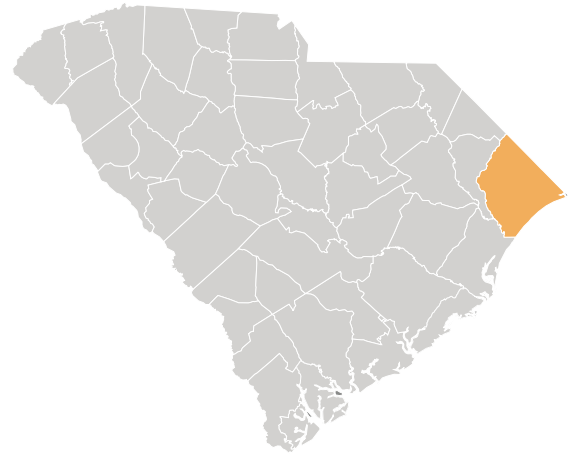
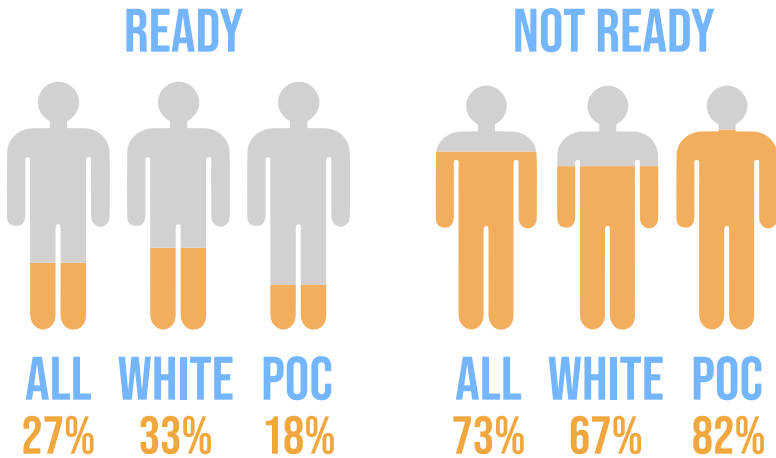


HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS CAN IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.



EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS YIELDS \$4-\$16 IN SOCIAL BENEFITS.

ARE HORRY COUNTY CHILDREN READY FOR KINDERGARTEN?*



IN SOUTH CAROLINA, 39% OF CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL; HORRY COUNTY IS BELOW THE STATE AVERAGE AT 27%.

**In South Carolina, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment is used to determine if children are ready for kindergarten.*



IN HORRY COUNTY ONLY 1 SCHOOL HAD OVER 50% OF STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING READINESS.

Data is from 2020, collected during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It should also be noted that there are 20 schools in Horry County but this report only reflects 19 that reported data.

BE A CONNECTOR

The time is now to get involved. Simply put, we can't let any more of our children fall behind. Are you ready to take your **first step** in supporting our work? We need ambassadors who will:

- ✓ **Join the grassroots effort** by becoming an HCFS board member.
- ✓ **Help HCFS reach families** (i.e., distribute information through already established channels like utility bills).
- ✓ **Assist HCFS with connecting families to services** (i.e., establishing programs like Story Walk and Raising a Reader).

HORRY COUNTY FIRST STEPS ■ WWW.HCFIRSTSTEPS.ORG ■ **843.488.3336**