

Spartanburg County First Steps
Early Head Start

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

Vision:

Every child in Spartanburg County will enter school ready to succeed.

Mission:

Spartanburg County First Steps will be the engine to drive community collaborations, partnerships, effective resource utilization and funding to prepare children and families for school.

Spartanburg County First Steps' mission is based on the knowledge that for young children to develop socially, emotionally and intellectually, they must live in an environment that fosters positive growth and relationships. Consequently, agency programs and activities focus not only on meeting the needs of the individual development of children 0 to 3 years of age, but also on strengthening adults' parenting skills and the overall family well-being. In support of the agency mission, First Steps provides programs and services for at-risk children and their families, and through collaborative efforts continue to strengthen and facilitate services that are applicable for family and community needs.

1. Social-Emotional Development

PROGRAM GOAL:

Program will provide safe environments to promote each child's feelings of competence and self-esteem. Children will be encouraged to build positive trusting relationships with family, peers, and other adults.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS:

- Children will learn to regulate their own emotions and behaviors, manage feelings, and follow limits and expectations. (obj.1)
- Children will establish positive relationships with adults and peers.(obj.2)
- Children will participate cooperatively and constructively in group situations.(obj.3)
- Children will have nurturing adult role models in their life.

PFCE GOALS:

- Parents will demonstrate positive interactions with their children.
- Parents will expand their knowledge of child's development.
- Parents will become advocates for their children and participate in children's learning activities.

HEALTH GOALS:

- Children are provided an environment that is safe, maintained and will support their healthy development.

STRATEGIES:

- Create a nurturing learning environment, reflective of acceptance and diversity.
- Provide professional development training on Social/Emotional development.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to enhance their parenting skills through monthly parent meetings, training events, monthly activity calendars and encouraged to volunteer.
- Ensure continuity of care for infants and toddlers.
- Conduct bi-annual Family Needs Assessment to identify parenting skills, child development knowledge and community participation.
- Conduct yearly parent surveys.
- Provide educational materials on child development, parenting and advocacy as well as information & guidance specific to the families' strengths and needs.
- Provide mental health services to children and families.

2. Physical Development and Health

PROGRAM GOAL:

Program will provide each child with a safe, nurturing, engaging, and secure environment that encourages growing, gaining strength and coordination. Appropriate experiences are provided to develop gross and fine motor skills, as well as, hand eye coordination. Children will be healthy and ready to learn.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS:

- Children will demonstrate traveling skills.(obj.4)
- Children will demonstrate balancing skills.(obj.5)
- Children will demonstrate gross motor manipulative skills. (obj.6)
- Children will demonstrate fine motor strength and coordination by using fingers, hands and beginning use of writing tools.(obj.7)

PFCE Goals:

- Families will demonstrate healthy behaviors and have increased financial security.

HEALTH GOALS:

- Families will participate in ongoing health care for their children.

- Families will participate in ongoing dental care for their children.
- Families will receive the guidance, support and tools to utilize health care and community, health and nutrition resources.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide physical activities and movement; both indoors and out.
- Provide an EHS environment that is safe, maintained and support healthy child and family development.
- Monitor receipt of Health events in Child-Plus.
- Monitor lesson plans for inclusion of daily physical activities (CB)
- Provide opportunities for outdoors Socialization Events. (HB)
- Monitor referrals and receipt of referrals in Child-Plus.
- Conduct bi-annual PIR Questionnaire – identify family activities, community health access and participation.
- Provided families financial information and the opportunity to develop their skills in budgeting.

3. Language Development and Literacy Knowledge

PROGRAM GOAL:

Program will provide an environment that is organized with appropriate materials that are rich in language, literacy and diversity.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS:

- Children will listen to and comprehend increasingly complex language. (obj.8)
- Children will use language to express thoughts and needs. (obj.9)
- Children will use appropriate conversations and other communication skills. (obj.10)
- Children will demonstrate knowledge of print and its' uses. (obj.17)
- Children will comprehend and respond to books and other text. (obj.18)

PFCE GOALS:

- Families will expand their knowledge of children's language development and literacy services in the community.
- Families will utilize community literacy services.
- Families will increase their knowledge of community resources that support children's learning and development such as libraries and museums.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide Books, music, games, and other materials to promote language and literacy development.
- Engage children in conversations with peers, teachers, and other adults.
- Provide training on language development and literacy.
- Refer children to the Imagination Library book a month program.
- Schedule EHS family events at community libraries.
- Provide families information on library usage and language/literacy activities for the home environment.

4. Cognition and General Knowledge

PROGRAM GOAL:

Program will provide a learning environment that offers children an opportunity to explore, discover, and gain knowledge through active learning. Children are allowed to make choices and have immediate experiences, while positive adult-child interactions provide a supportive environment.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS:

- Children will remember and connect experiences. (obj.12)
- Children will use classification skills. (obj.13)
- Children will use symbols to represent items. (obj.14)
- Children will use number concepts to count and connect numerals with their quantities. (obj.20)
- Children will explore and describe spatial relationships and shapes.(obj.21)
- Children will compare and measure.(obj.22)
- Children will demonstrate knowledge of patterns.(obj.23)

PFCE GOALS:

1. Families will receive the guidance, support and tools they need to: nurture positive relationships with their children; guide their children's learning and development and advocate for their children's education across transition periods.

STRATEGIES:

- Provide professional development training in the area of mathematics.
- Utilize High Five Mathematize as a curriculum supplement.
- Provide training and educational materials related to children's social and emotional development and transitions.
- Encourage parents to engage in positive and nurturing interactions with their children in the home environment and at EHS activities.
- Create safe and respectful environments for parents' peer learning and support.

5. Approaches to Learning

PROGRAM GOAL:

Program will provide a safe and predictable environment where children know what to expect and what is expected of them. The Program will assess and track children's individual learning, using Teaching Strategies GOLD child assessment system.

SCHOOL READINESS GOALS:

- Children will demonstrate positive approaches to learning by engaging and solving problems. (obj.11)

PCFE GOALS:

- Parents will receive the information, support and experiences needed to: expand their knowledge of children's temperament and their ability to engage in learning opportunities during routines, interactions and activities.

STRATEGIES:

- Offer families information and trainings on transitions and utilization of the home environment and community resources to enhance learning.
- Monthly Activities Calendars provided to promote Parent-child interactions.
- Provide Socializations twice a month for participation between parents & children.
- Continued training on use of Teaching Strategies GOLD.
- Encourage regular center and home-based attendance.