

Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children's learning is foundational for life success; and
- ✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children's early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a "field trip" to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

Children Served	21
Families Served	19
Home/School Visits	126

**CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.*



This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 100% of CTK parents would recommend CTK to other parents
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 40%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in all areas of readiness during the 2017-18 school year.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 33% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education in the areas of class room volunteering and maintaining contact with teacher.

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Jasper County Government
 Jasper County School District
 Kaplan Early Learning Company
 Town of Ridgeland

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Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina



Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-informed** program.

