



Chesterfield County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

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Drusilla Carter

Executive Director:
Karen Odom

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Total children in county under age 6: 3,240 (Although the county's census total population data is estimated to not count 18,000 people, including Children)

Children under age 6 living in poverty: 13.2%

Chesterfield County Highlights

- School Readiness Scores and other indicators improve see pages 12-15

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to report the successes of the Chesterfield County First Steps Partnership for School Readiness. As executive director, I have seen the community join together to plan ways to benefit all of the children of Chesterfield County from birth to age 5.

We are pleased to bring together people from various public and private agencies, educational institutions, the religious community, as well as parents, teachers, business people, child care providers and other community members to serve as stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, as well as from various grants and the donations of area businesses, agencies and citizens.

The Board of Directors is proud that all our service providers are doing a fantastic job and that the results are evident. In collaboration with our community partners, who have generously donated time and financial resources, we have made tremendous strides. However, the work ahead of us is still great. Our collective efforts must not cease until every child in Chesterfield County enters school ready to succeed and reaches their fullest potential. We must also encourage our families to access and use information to make appropriate decisions that are in the best interest of their children.

We hope you will look over the information in this report and will join us in creating a Chesterfield County that is committed to the well-being of its youngest members, who are, after all, our future.

Sincerely,
Karen Odom
Executive Director

"We pay a price when we deprive children of the exposure to the values, principles, and education they need to make them good citizens." - Sandra Day O'Connor

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Book Program

Program description: Founded by Dolly Parton in 1988, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library provides age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Many children receiving books might not otherwise have quality books at their reading level in their homes. Children who are registered in their local communities are mailed one book per month through their fifth birthday. The annual cost per child is only \$30 or around \$2.50 per month. The initiative in Chesterfield County is supported solely by local funds.

Program results:

- ❖ *4,772 books were placed in low-income homes*
- ❖ *On average, 388 children received a book each month*
- ❖ *All Child Care Quality Enhancement centers participated in the program*
- ❖ *Collaborated with the local health department to identify eligible children*
- ❖ *Collaborated with the county post offices to identify address changes of participants, ensuring children receive their books. This collaborative effort safeguards the resources utilized to purchase and mail the books by identifying invalid or changed addresses*
- ❖ *A random survey indicates that 98% of participants are extremely satisfied with the program*

HEALTHY START

Jumpstart to Good Health-Grant through Chesterfield County

Coordinating Council-Funded by: Dept. of Health and Human Services

Program description: In collaboration with community partners, implemented an evidence based health prevention program that will curb and reduce the risk of childhood obesity in young children. The partnership will attempt to achieve four overall goals: 1) Improve health knowledge and reduce risk of obesity for 40 to 60 children 2, 3, and 4 years old; 2) Improve the nutrition and physical activity environment at four child care centers in Chesterfield County; 3) Effect positive healthy lifestyle changes by families with young children; and 4) Engage the Chesterfield County community in a health care message for young children. Project began late January 2008 and will conclude in December 2008.

Program results:

Goals and outcomes:

1. *75% of children Body Mass Index (BMI) will remain or improve to Healthy 2010 standards:*

- ❖ *Baseline BMI on 75 children were conducted in February and will be measured again in November 2008*
 - ❖ *Baseline BMI showed that one-third of the children screened were overweight or obese*
2. *Improve the nutrition and physical activity environment at four child care centers- Each child care center will make a 50% improvement on the ERS (Environment Rating Scale) on measures related to nutrition and physical:*
- ❖ *All four participating centers are meeting USDA guidelines according to the ERS assessment*
3. *Basic knowledge of healthy eating and the importance of daily physical activity will improve by 20%*
- ❖ *Baseline survey was conducted in February with families, post survey will be conducted in November 2008*
 - ❖ *123 children (birth to five years old) in four child care centers are being served*
 - ❖ *75 children (ages 2, 3, and 4) received Body Mass Index screenings; one-third of children were assessed to be overweight or obese*
 - ❖ *20 child care providers at 4 child care centers attended the nutrition training by a Registered Dietician. Training accredited 3.5 hours, approved with the Center for Child Care Career Development. Covered the USDA program, nutrients needed for successful growth and development, menu planning, and instituting nutrition policies in the centers*
 - ❖ *40 child care providers/4 child care centers participated in the certified training Color Me Healthy by DHEC Regional Masters Health Educator*
 - ❖ *YMCA will be providing physical education recommendations*
 - ❖ *Registered Dietician provided menu consultation to the 4 child care centers and assisted in the preparation of 4 weeks of menus. Dietician assessed for portion size, food quality and nutrients provided. New menus implemented to meet USDA recommended standards*

Jumpstart to Good Health’s pre and post comparison on the ERS subscale Meals and Snacks

Center Name	Pre-Assessment Score	Post-Assessment Score	Gain in Overall Score	Loss in Overall Score
Center A	1.00	4.00	3.00	
Center B	2.00	2.5	.50	
Center C	3.1	4.0	.90	
Center D	1.00	2.00	1.00	

.5 change is consider a significant change

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Program Description:

Thompson Child & Family Focus Program Quality Specialist provided technical assistance to child care providers in Chesterfield County to:

- Increase the providers’ and educators’ understanding of core knowledge and competencies that will help to improve their ability to administer and provide quality early care and education;
- Enhance the overall quality of early care and education provided to infants, toddlers, and preschool children;
- Enhance the overall program administration of early care and education facilities; and
- Ensure accountability in the use of child care grant funds, and project evaluation.

Program Results:

Steady Steps Quality Enhancement

- ❖ *6 child care centers received individualized technical assistance from one Program Quality Specialist (PQS);*
- ❖ *427 children were impacted and 79 child care providers were served;*
- ❖ *5 CCCCDC approved in-service trainings were offered totaling 24 hours;*
- ❖ *73 child care providers attended the in-service trainings; and*
- ❖ *750 contact hours were provided to childcare providers in their natural environment*
- ❖ *The Program Quality Specialist collaborated with the Child Health Coordinator to enhance meals and snacks and gross motor play at four child care centers*
- ❖ *3 child care centers achieved an overall ERS score of 4.0*
- ❖ *2 child care centers increased their overall ERS scores by almost 2 points (.5 is considered scientifically significant)*

- ❖ *Post ERS assessment scores from the ECERS-R classrooms reveal an average Interaction score of 5.4*
- ❖ *All centers made significant improvements in various areas on the ERS such as: staff to child interactions, provisions for parents, free play, and music and movement, etc.*

Directors Networking Forum

- ❖ *Offered 9 forums to all child care providers county wide*
- ❖ *9 directors attended; and*
- ❖ *Resources provided during the forums were used by directors to strengthen administrative skills and*

Quality Child Care Expansion Project

Partnership Goal – To create access to quality, model child care in the county where services are most needed, thus allowing more children to start school ready to learn and be successful in school.

- ❖ *Awarded and entered into contract with First Presbyterian Child Development Center in February 2007*
- ❖ *Provided the center with 120 hours of technical assistance by a qualified program quality specialist*
- ❖ *Technical assistance provided in child care environment-room arrangement, selection of early care and education product and licensing process*
- ❖ *Center opened and obtained licensure in August 2007*
- ❖ *Center serves 10 ABC scholarship children*
- ❖ *Center participated in the Directors' Networking Forum, the Resource Center and the Jumpstart to Good Health program*
- ❖ *Center scored 6 (out of 7) in these areas of the ERS: Encouraging children to communicate, Provisions for parents, Staff interactions and cooperation, Free play, Sand and Water, Music and Movement*

Resource Center at Northeastern Technical College

Partnership Goal –Provide parents and professionals, who work with young children, access to information and materials they need to enhance early learning opportunities through the First Steps Resource Center. The resources and services of the First Steps Resource Center (FSRC) affect the daily lives of young children directly by providing equipment such as a laminator, Ellison die cut machine, copy machine, paper cutter, along with space to create inexpensive materials to be used by and with young children and their families; by offering materials and props (multicultural toys, dolls, prop boxes) as well as resources (books, math and science materials, and puppets) to be checked out by the early childhood professionals (child care center and homes and part day preschools), early childhood students, early interventionists and parents.

- ❖ *Collaboration/partnership with Northeastern Technical College to provide space and other in-kind support of the Resource Center*

- ❖ *Partnership with the county library system developed to reduce geographic barrier of accessing the Resource Center. Resource Center items may be returned to any county library*
- ❖ *8 child care teachers and directors are using the Resource Center*
- ❖ *Approx. 100 children are being impacted within these centers*
- ❖ *14 Northeastern Technical College students/parents are using the Resource Center*
- ❖ *30 parents are using the Resource Center*
- ❖ *37 children are being impacted by those 30 parents using the Resource Center*
- ❖ *2 primary schools are using the Resource Center*
- ❖ *Approx. 350 children are being impacted by the 2 schools using the Resource Center*
- ❖ *7 workshops held with parents*
- ❖ *2,685 items were checked out of the Resource Center this year*
- ❖ *The Resource Center has 54 active members.*
- ❖ *The Resource Center is impacting at least 499 children.*

EARLY EDUCATION.

S.C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) Program description:

CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in the 37 trial and plaintiff school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit, *Abbeville et al. vs. South Carolina*. First Steps oversees CDEPP 4K classes offered in non-public school environments. To qualify for state-paid tuition, a student's family must qualify for TANF or free/reduced-price lunch, be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2007, and live in an eligible school district.

Program results:

- ❖ *One child care center offered CDEPP 4K class*
- ❖ *Nine students received 180 days of four year old preschool*
- ❖ *Provider also participated in the Quality Enhancement program, the Resource Center and the Jumpstart to Good Health program*
- ❖ *Transportation was provided for students through a collaboration with Chesterfield County School District*

Financial Summary

Expenditures by Funding Source

State Appropriation.	\$230,192	State Private	\$0
E.I.A. Appropriation	\$13,971	Local Private	\$62,221
Lottery Appropriation	\$0	Federal	\$1,300
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation	\$49,604	In-Kind	\$56,765
C.O.E. Appropriation	\$0		

Expenditures by Program/Strategy Name

6012 Quality Enhancement	\$75,139
6052 Child Care Professional Development	\$66,872
7020 Child Care Expansion	\$10,000
9032 Nutrition/Health Program	\$21,082
1012 Administrative Functions	\$31,312
1502 Program Functions	\$83,439
2122 Imagination Library Book Program	\$12,654
3141 Full Day 4-K (Public)	\$42,355
3141 Transportation 4-K	\$689
GRAND TOTAL	\$343,542

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLE DONORS

The gift amount of individual donors is not disclosed; however, the level of the gift is noted. Chesterfield County First Steps gift levels are as follows:

\$25-\$99
Playschool Pal
\$100-\$499
Preschool Friend
\$500-\$999
Bookworm Buddy
\$1,000-\$4,999
Champion of Children
\$5,000 and more
Hero

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
Allison Becker	Playschool Pal
Ann Huntley	Preschool Friend
Anonymous	Playschool Pal
Ansley Starr	Playschool Pal
Avery and Barbara Dickson	Playschool Pal
Bernadine White	Preschool Friend
Beth Melton	Playschool Pal
Betty Hurst	Playschool Pal
BFG Industries, Inc	Preschool Friend
Billie Stoudemire	Playschool Pal
Bobby Freeman	Playschool Pal
Bojanlges	Playschool Pal
Brenda Hubbard	Playschool Pal
Brock Grading and Land	Playschool Pal
Anonymous	Bookworm Buddy
Calvin Hancock	Preschool Friend
Camilla Pitman	Preschool Friend
Carmen Spencer	Playschool Pal
Carolina Bank	Preschool Friend
Carolyn Addison	Playschool Pal
Carolyn Mickleberry	Playschool Pal
Carrie Turner	Playschool Pal
Cathy Chapman	Playschool Pal
Cathy Pelfrey	Playschool Pal

Cedar Creek Baptist Church	Preschool Friend
Charles Clark	Playschool Pal
Charles Gray, III	Playschool Friend
Charlie and Gail Stoudemire	Playschool Pal
Charlotte Henderson	Playschool Pal
Chesterfield County Coordinating Council/Dept. of Health and Human Services Prevention Partnership Grant	HERO
Chesterfield General Hospital	Bookworm Buddy
Christy Ruffner	Playschool Pal
Clemson University (Rural Compassion Grant)	HERO
Conbraco Industries, Inc	Preschool Friend
Connie Renfro	Preschool Friend
Connie Spencer	Preschool Friend
Crystal Miller	Playschool Pal
Cynthia Rice	Playschool Pal
David Matthews	Preschool Friend
Dawn Leach	Playschool Pal
Dayna Gladden	Playschool Pal
Deborah Gilmore	Playschool Pal
Deborah Holloway	Playschool Pal
Deborah Watson	Playschool Pal
Delta Kappa Gamma	Preschool Friend
First Citizens	Preschool Friend
First United Methodist Church	Playschool Pal
Founders Federal Credit Union	Champion of Children
Frederick Harris	Playschool Pal
Gail Ingram	Playschool Pal
Gail Yancey	Playschool Pal
Gloria Motley	Playschool Pal
Helen Stroud	Playschool Pal
Heritage Community Bank	Preschool Friend
J. Matthew Rivers	Playschool Pal
Jack Rhyne	Playschool Pal
James Sweeney	Preschool Friend
James Taylor	Playschool Pal
Dr. James Thrailkill	Playschool Pal

Jane Joines	Playschool Pal
Drusilla Carter	Preschool Friend
Janice Sowell	Playschool Pal
Jerry King	Preschool Friend
Joan Yates	Preschool Friend
Joette Barnhill	Playschool Pal
John Douglas	Playschool Pal
John Gerstenmier	Preschool Friend
John Jones	Preschool Friend
John Williams	Preschool Friend
Joni Roberts	Preschool Friend
Josephine Brown	Playschool Pal
Jyoti Patel	Playschool Pal
Karen and Glenn Odom	Preschool Friend
Karin Taylor	Playschool Pal
Katherine Griggs	Playschool Pal
Katherine Simpson	Playschool Pal
Larrie Foster	Playschool Pal
Larry Jordan	Preschool Friend
Lee Coyle	Playschool Pal
Linda Rowell	Preschool Friend
Lindy Watson	Playschool Pal
Lucille Gaskins	Playschool Pal
Lyn Bethea	Playschool Pal
Lynches River Electric Coop.	Playschool Pal
Margery Stubbs	Playschool Pal
Margie Gaskins	Playschool Pal
Marilyn Caulder	Playschool Pal
Mary Batson	Playschool Pal
Mary Bennett	Playschool Pal
Mary Redfearn	Preschool Friend
Mary Beth Freeman	Playschool Pal
Melanie Lankford	Playschool Pal
Melinda Oakley	Playschool Pal
Melissa Brown	Playschool Pal
Melissa Jordan	Playschool Pal
Mella Jones	Playschool Pal

Michelle Stroud	Playschool Pal
Mimi Quick	Playschool Pal
Mody Clark	Playschool Pal
Nicole Gullede	Playschool Pal
Nirmala Ramalingam	Playschool Pal
Northeastern Technical College	Preschool Friend
Pageland Chapter of Eastern Star	Preschool Friend
Palmetto Brick	Playschool Pal
Palmetto Family Medicine	Playschool Pal
Pam Miller	Playschool Pal
Pam Stancil	Playschool Pal
Pamela Toole	Playschool Pal
Pat Cassidy	Playschool Pal
Patricia Hendley	Playschool Pal
Paul Anderson	Playschool Pal
Paul Burch	Playschool Pal
Penny and Robert Angle	Playschool Pal
Priscilla Jackson	Playschool Pal
Ray Lear	Playschool Pal
RJ Huguley	Playschool Pal
Rose Schumacher	Playschool Pal
Rotary Club of Cheraw	Preschool Friend
Sandhills Telephone Company	Preschool Friend
Sandhills Bank of McBee	Playschool Pal
Sandra Barbour	Playschool Pal
Sandra Coker	Playschool Pal
Sandra Belk	Playschool Pal
Sandy Brown	Preschool Friend
Sarah Henderson	Playschool Pal
Selma Rae Henderson	Playschool Pal
Sharon Pearce	Playschool Pal
Shelley Morgan	Playschool Pal
Sherrie Chapman	Preschool Friend
Sherry Porter	Playschool Pal
Shiloh United Methodist Women	Playschool Pal
Shirley Spencer	Preschool Friend
St. Paul United Methodist Church	Preschool Friend
Stephen Wallace	Preschool Friend
Susan Griggs	Playschool Pal

Susanne Davis	Playschool Pal
Tammy McCarn	Playschool Pal
Target	Champion of Children
Teresa Gaskins	Playschool Pal
The Malloy Foundation	Preschool Friend
The San Francisco Foundation	Playschool Pal
Thomas Knight	Playschool Pal
Todd Shifflet	Playschool Pal
Tommy Sellers	Playschool Pal
United Way of Chesterfield County	Champion of Children
United Way of Jefferson & Pageland	Champion of Children
Wal-Mart of Cheraw	Bookworm Buddy
Wal-Mart Distribution Center	Champion of Children
Wanda Douglas	Preschool Friend
Westfield Creek Baptist Church	Playschool Pal
Zion UMC Women	Preschool Friend
Total Cash Contributions	\$38,222.73

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: **40.47%** (Funds 20, 25, and 60) (at least 15% Legislative requirement)

FUND 25 IN-KIND DONATIONS

IN-KIND contributions made to the partnership from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

DONOR'S NAME	AMOUNT
IN-KIND SPENCER	\$ 41.27
IN-KIND THOMPSON	\$ 3,910.39
IN-KIND THOMPSON (FEBRUARY)	\$ 3,233.57
IN-KIND THOMPSON (MARCH)	\$ 1,754.52
IN-KIND THOMPSON (APRIL)	\$ 1,754.52
IN-KIND THOMPSON (MAY)	\$ 1,827.94
IN-KIND NORTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE	\$ 4,400.00
IN-KIND THOMPSON	\$ 1,145.20
IN-KIND THOMPSON	\$ 8,959.87
IN-KIND THOMPSON (MARCH)	\$ 1,804.72
IN-KIND THOMPSON (APRIL)	\$ 1,549.15
IN-KIND THOMPSON (MAY)	\$ 1,780.21

IN-KIND FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	\$	24,603.45
TOTAL	\$	56,764.81

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD
OF TRUSTEES
July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

Name	Community Sector
Ms. Margie Gaskins	Business Community
Ms. Sandy Brown	Business Community
Dr. John Williams	Chesterfield County School District-Superintendent
Ms. Audrey Toney	Childcare/Early Childhood Development Provider
Ms. Tammy Bittle	Childcare/Early Childhood Development Provider
Mr. Charlie Gray, Treasurer	County Legislative Delegation Appointee (up to 4)
Ms. Drusilla Carter, Vice Chair	County Library Designee-County Director
Mrs. Bernadine White	Early Childhood Education
Mrs. Billie Stoudemire	Early Childhood Education
Ms. Katie Harrington	Early Childhood Education
Rev. John Gerstenmier, Chair	Early Childhood Education
Rev. Joan Yates	Faith Community
Rev. Lee Coyle	Faith community
Ms. Bernice Linton	Family Education, Training & Support
Ms. Mary Bennett	Family Education, Training & Support
Mrs. Carrie Turner	Head Start-County Director
Mr. Calvin Hancock, Jr.	Health Care Provider
Mr. Todd Shifflet, Secretary	Health Care Provider
Mrs. Pamela Mills	Nonprofit serving families & children
Ms. Carla Brown	Nonprofit serving families & children
Mrs. Missy Brown	Parent of pre-school child
Ms. Shannon Peyton	Parent of pre-school child
VACANT	Parent of pre-school child
Mrs. Mary B. Redfearn	Pre-K- Primary Educator
Ms. Ann Huntley	Pre-K- Primary Educator-Director of Early Childhood
Mr. Jack Rhyne	SC Department of Health & Environmental Control
Mr. Ralph Laney	SC Department of Social Services-Director
Mr. Frank Patterson	Transportation Provider-Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Teresa Gaskins	Transportation Provider

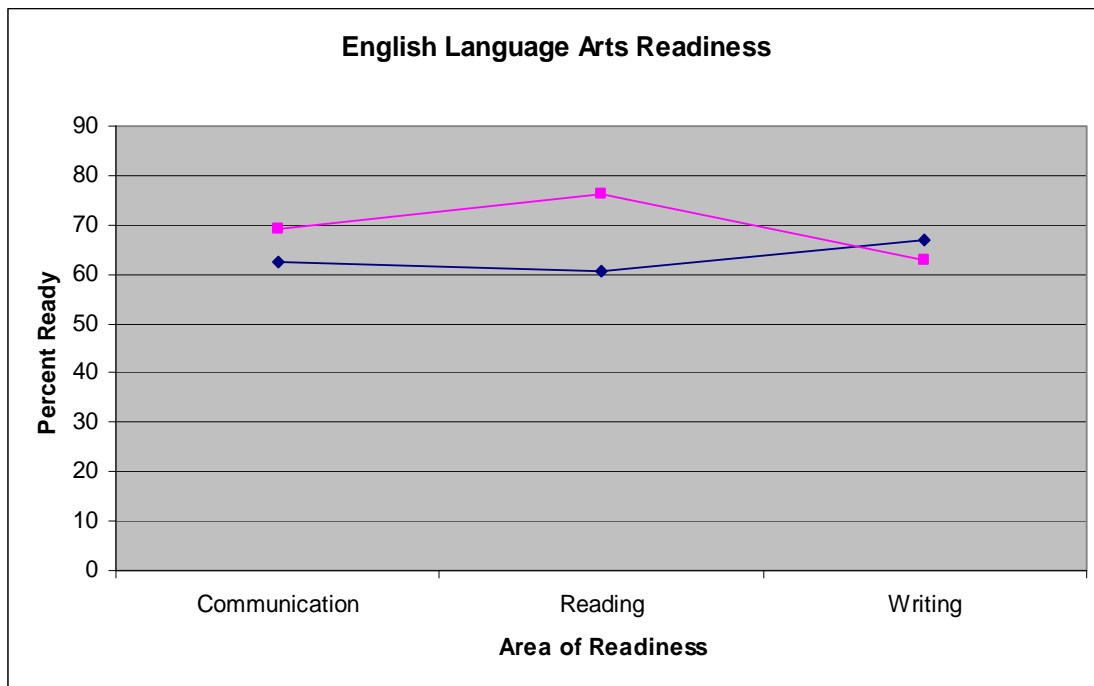
COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY08, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also

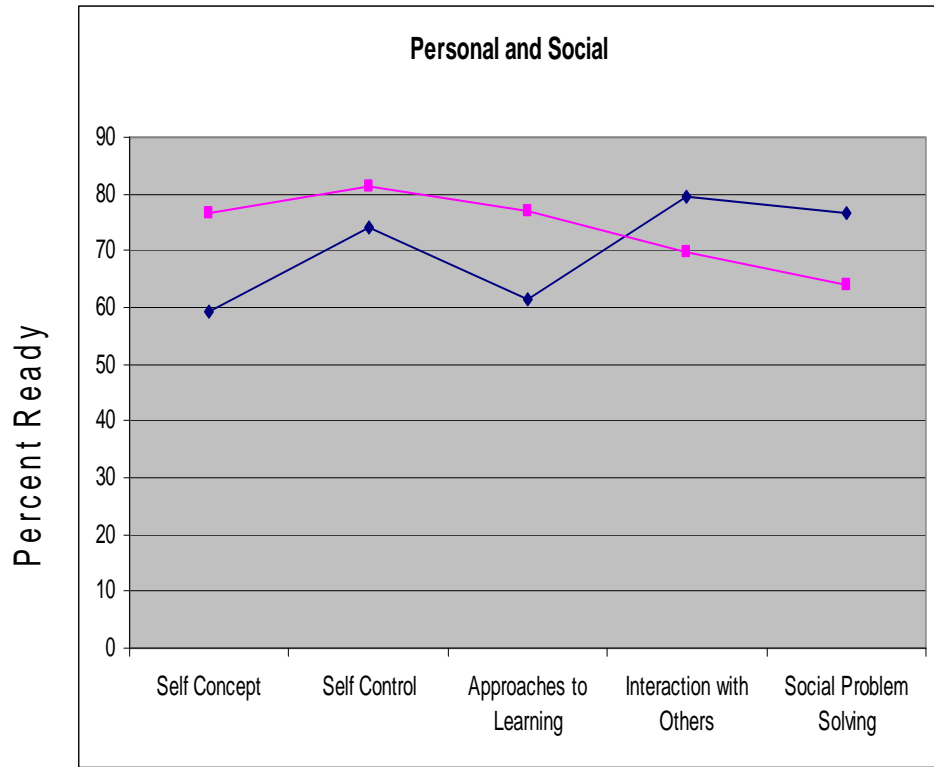
utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

The indicators reveal that major progress has been made, in some cases more than has occurred in surrounding counties or the state. The bad news is that the numbers of children dropping out of school and those not ready for school are still too high. (For more information on the school readiness indicators, visit www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org/publications.html)

SCHOOL READINESS RESULTS: SCRA
COMPARISON OF 2004 TO 2007 *(please click below for the three school readiness charts)*



Blue=2003
 Pink=2007

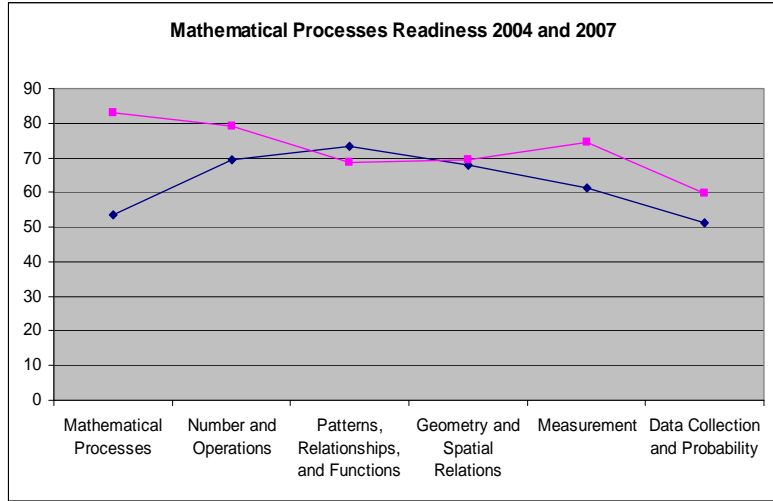


Areas of Personal and Social Readiness

Blue=2004

Pink=2007

Chesterfield County First Steps



Area of Mathematical Process Readiness

Blue=2004

Pink=2007

Chesterfield County First Steps