

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

2018-2023

MISSION Helping to make Anson County a better place to be a child and to raise a child.

WHY WE DO THIS WORK

Success requires that the staff and board are all bought into a shared vision for Anson County. That shared vision is three-fold and should be considered the areas of focus for the agency.

1 Every Family is Supported

The needs in Anson County are great and increasing due to poverty, lack of jobs, drug use, etc. We believe in creating a community where ALL families feel supported in raising their children. We focus on reaching those most difficult to reach, those who need the most assistance, and strive to level the playing field for families in Anson County.

2 All Children are Prepared for Kindergarten

Too many children in Anson County enter kindergarten underprepared and not ready to learn. ALL children should enter the school system with a set of basic skills that enable them to be successful learners, which requires a focus on high quality, early childhood education - not just childcare and daycare.

3 Literacy is Improved Across Generations

Improving literacy for children begins and ends at home. We recognize that some parents and caregivers have literacy challenges of their own, so we must broaden our reach to include all family members, not just those preparing for kindergarten.

HOW WE APPROACH OUR WORK

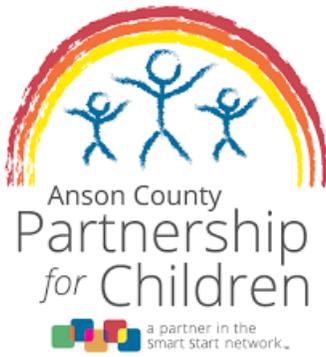
This strategic planning process uncovered a need to rethink how we approach our work. Thus, this plan is built on a set of shared beliefs that will help us move forward in a more strategic way.

1 Our desire to care for children and **meet the needs of the community** mustn't cause us to become "a mile wide and an inch deep." Focusing on the strategies in this plan without the burden of distractions is critical to success.

2 Our ability to **make the greatest impact**, given our limited bandwidth, is to become the trainer, facilitator, connector, and organizer - without having to always be the implementor. Words like ADVOCATE, RESOURCE, and SUPPORT HUB are often used to describe ACPC, so let's take that deeper and make it work for us.

3 Our long history of deep involvement from partners in the community allows us to assume **more of a leadership role** in family support, kindergarten preparedness, and literacy. We need to focus on shifting the narrative from the community knowing us as the "organization that gives things away" to the "organization that facilitates positive change."

4 Our focus must be on **supporting the entire family unit** to have the greatest impact on children. Recognizing that family units come in all different shapes and sizes, a commitment to serving the diverse needs of these varying situations will serve us well.



Making Anson County a better place to be a child and raise a child.

There are only **2,000 days** between the time a baby is born and when that child shows up for the first day of kindergarten. Within our community, there are great disparities in the ability of children and families to maximize those days. Our vision for Anson County is three-fold: every family is supported; all children are prepared for kindergarten; and, for literacy to be improved across generations. More about the strategies and outcomes that support this vision are below.

OUR STRATEGIES

OUR VISION FOR ANSON COUNTY

Every Family Is Supported

All Children are Prepared for Kindergarten

Literacy is Improved Across Generations



Increase Awareness

- ✓ Elevate the perception of ACPC and its programs
- ✓ Educate community on the importance of early childhood education
- ✓ Expand the profile of the Early Childhood Resource Center
- ✓ Improve understanding of all resources available
- ✓ Advocate for equitable access to high quality early childhood education
- ✓ Integrate literacy into conversations of overall health and well being



Provide Resources

- ✓ Position ACPC as *the* resource hub for families
- ✓ Align resources to better serve those in greatest need
- ✓ Update and enhance the Early Childhood Resource Center
- ✓ Increase cross-referrals within the portfolio of ACPC programs
- ✓ Work to eliminate barriers to early childhood education (ie, transportation, cost)
- ✓ Ensure that every family has access to books and reading material at home



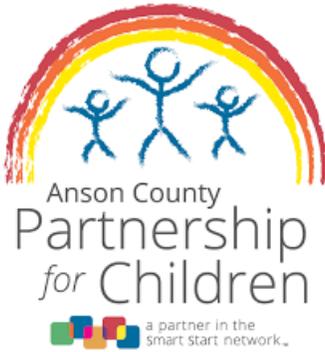
Build Capacity

- ✓ Train community providers to better meet the diverse needs of children and families
- ✓ Create accountability standards to track the transition from preschool to kindergarten
- ✓ Engage parents and caregivers more actively in reading to their children
- ✓ Empower parents and increase parenting skills
- ✓ Improve the quality and star rating of early childhood education centers and staff
- ✓ Enhance childcare providers ability to address literacy



Leverage Partnerships

- Partner with:
- ✓ Local Law Enforcement
- Partner with Anson County Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Central Carolinas, and others to ensure early childhood education is a part of quality of life conversations in Anson County.
- Partner with:
- ✓ Anson County Schools
- ✓ Churches & ministries
- ✓ Hampton B. Allen Library
- ✓ Anson County DSS
- ✓ Other literacy programs



What We Will Do

Rather than an overly-scripted list of tactics and activities, our next steps are intended to be more flexible. The environment the Anson County Partnership for Children operates in is ever-changing, and our approach needs to be responsive to those changes. Input throughout the strategic planning process, from a variety of stakeholders, have helped to inform these next steps. What is presented here is not a definitive list. It is meant to further conversations and discussion among agency leadership - both the staff and the board - to determine priority and the sequence of implementation.



Increase Awareness

- Expand and diversify outreach efforts to ensure that those in greatest need are aware of all programs and services that ACPC offers. Take a critical look at WHO and HOW people are being reached.
- Create and widely distribute a comprehensive directory of services and programs offered for children and families in Anson County - including, but not limited to, those at ACPC.
- Expand outreach and education for the community on how early childhood education impacts overall health and well-being, and economic prosperity.



Provide Resources

- Continue to refine and update the “membership” structure for the Resource Center. Utilize additional capital to update materials and resources.
- Increase support of the entire family unit for those participating in programs, such as Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, Raising a Reader, and Reach Out and Read.
- Use “bookmobile” and other mobile resources to reach those who are unable to access the Resource Center or other centrally located programs of ACPC - to ensure access to all.



Build Capacity

- Work collaboratively with school district leadership to better understand their expectations of basic skills for kindergarten students. Develop shared measures and training for childcare providers to track their progress and success accordingly.
- Build internal capacity of ACPC (staff and board) to measure and communicate in terms of impact and results, not just distribution and numbers reached.
- Work with families, childcare providers, churches, and others to ensure they have resources they need to improve their own literacy and ability to read to/with children.



Leverage Partnerships

- Support members of Safe Kids Anson to be able to take on some of the tasks and activities currently being implemented by ACPC (i.e. medicine drop, pool safety, car seat inspections, diaper bank).
- Build on existing relationships with Anson County Schools to explore transition of kindergarten enrollees in the Raising a Reader program.
- Extend and expand the partnership base of ACPC to include youth and family-serving nonprofits, churches, the Chamber, and business community. Continually communicate the WHY - why is early childhood education everyone’s responsibility.

