

Key Elements

Hands on Quality - Child Care Centers

- NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation Project
- Assessment of center needs
- Professional Development
- Support Children's Health Issues
- Parent Education Opportunities
- Literacy and Language

Hands on Quality - Family Home Child Care Providers

- Business and Programming Support
- Professional Development
- Networking Opportunities



Making Children's Lives Better
Mejorando la Vida de los Niños



The Program's Goals

- Improve the overall quality of early childhood education programs in child care centers and family child care homes.
- Enhance early childhood literacy and school readiness.
- Promote professional development in the early childhood community.

First Focus on Kids

Started in 1999 to improve the quality of early education in Tucson's neighborhoods. Early Education Specialists provided assistance to child care centers through self-assessment and the process of accreditation, including staff training, mentoring, and on-site technical assistance. Twelve centers participated in the initial project.

- In 2004, the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona proposed a Quality Rating System (QRS) for child care centers as part of Governor Janet Napolitano's school readiness plan.
- In 2005, 46 early learning centers participated in a QRS pilot program.
- In 2006, 25 early childhood learning centers in Pima County were enrolled.
- In 2007, our name changed to *Hands On Quality-An Early Education Enhancement Project*. We became an NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation Project supporting and sustaining accreditation efforts in early education centers in Tucson and Pima County.
- In 2007, we received a grant designed to establish up to 22 high-quality family home child care providers on the east side of Tucson.

United Way



Child & Family
Resources, Inc.



Make Way
for Books



Pima County
Health Department



The Parent
Connection



Pima
Community College



The program is funded by grants from The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, the Diamond Challenge Fund, the City of Tucson and various other grants.

For more
information on the
First Focus on Kids
Hands on Quality Project,
please contact:
Hands On Quality Team



An Early Education
Enhancement Project



2800 E. Broadway Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85716
(520) 881-8940
Fax (520) 325-8780

www.childfamilyresources.org