

FIRST THINGS FIRST

SUPPORTER & CHAMPION REGIONAL UPDATE

Pinal | March 2020




FIRST THINGS FIRST

LEARN ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES

The **second Wednesday of every month**, First Things First will join the Superstition Community Food Bank to provide information and resources to parents and caregivers of children ages birth to five including:

- A fun activity table for kids of all ages!
- Informational resources and referrals for parents and caregivers:
 - Dental and Sensory Screenings
 - Parent Education
 - Home Visitation support
 - Support for home-based childcare providers

You are your child's first teacher.
Learn why the early years are so vital to your child's growing success.

Connect with Us    

First Things First, Pinal Region
520-836-6838

Happy March!

We are so happy to announce our official partnership with the [Superstition Community Food Bank!](#) We will join the Food Bank every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:30-4pm. Many of us know the struggle of going to a service agency and waiting in line with our little ones (the DMV is my personal nightmare for this). These struggles are multiplied when families are additionally vulnerable.

This outreach opportunity will provide an excellent opportunity for us to reach families to encourage and

educate them about local resources. Additionally, we will have a craft/

activity table for little ones (and older ones) to help parents get some reprieve while waiting!

If you are interested in volunteering Wednesday, March 11 [email me!](#)

PINAL
EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION

naeyc
Week of the
Young Child

NEED A DAY OF FAMILY FUN?

FREE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 5

- Crafts & activities
- Snacks & fun
- Information on community resources

Monday, April 13
10 a.m. - noon
Heritage Park
600 N Main St, Florence, AZ 85132

Tuesday, April 14
10 a.m. - noon
Main Street Park
203 W Coolidge Avenue, Coolidge, AZ 85128

Wednesday, April 15
10 a.m. - noon
US 60 Park
830 US-60, Superior, AZ 85173

Thursday, April 16
10 a.m. - noon
Ultra Star Center
16000 Maricopa Rd, Maricopa, AZ 85139

SUPPORTED BY
FIRST THINGS FIRST

For more information call: 480.297.4816

The flyer features a photograph of a young boy in a blue shirt and shorts, standing next to several colorful circles (orange, green, blue).

Additional upcoming outreach opportunities:

Week of the Young Child:

10am-12pm

Monday, April 13th in Florence

Tuesday, April 14th in Coolidge

Wednesday, April 15th in Superior

Thursday, April 16th in Maricopa

[Email me](#) if you are able to help out or want to participate.

Also: HELP!

We have been invited to table at [Project Connect](#) in Casa Grande on Friday, March 27th from 9am-12pm. We are simultaneously at the [12th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference for Pinal](#). If anyone can help by running the FTF table at Project Connect, I would be very appreciative!

[Email me](#) and let me know!

WE NEED TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!!!



I had a wonderful opportunity to meet with [Representative Tom O'Halleran](#) at an event in Coolidge recently where the topic of discussion was infrastructure. This is important to us in early childhood in Pinal because we live in a childcare desert; there are simply not enough resources for young children.

Congressman O'Halleran, and First Things First, want to hear from you!

- What are some of the key resources we are missing for young children in Pinal County?
- How has that affected you and/ or the people you serve?
- Consider childcare, preschool, physical and/ or behavioral health resources or even transportation to ensure families can access the resources that are available.

Please [send me](#) your stories and I will send them to Congressman O'Halleran as he discusses expanding infrastructure in rural areas, which includes infrastructure for families with young children.

However, and with your permission, I am partnering with the policy branch of First Things First to create a narrative about how the childcare desert in this region is impacting children and families.

Change starts here. [Share your stories](#) and help us illuminate how living in a childcare deserts impacts us, and the families we serve!



PEDIATRIC WAIT TIME VIDEO – FIRST THINGS FIRST AND SESAME STREET!!!!

First Things First has partnered with Sesame Street (I am so excited!) to create a waiting room video to stream in pediatric medical and dental offices. There are two videos, each 30 minutes long, with bite-sized chunks of information from brain growth to reading to eating healthy to exercise (Grover's work-out video is my mid-day decompression, it's at 19:45 in video 1 – check it out!).

If you know of an office that might want to stream a little bit of amazing in their waiting room, let me know and I will get them hooked up! We have DVD's, it can be streamed, it can be downloaded from Google Drive!

If you want to check it out, here is a YouTube link:

[FTF and Sesame Street Wait Time Video 1](#)

[FTF and Sesame Street Wait Time Video 2](#)



[CHECK OUT THE FTF BLOG!](#)
[MAKE YOUR FAMILY COUNT!](#)

First Things First has a parent blog with wonderful information, tips and tricks for growing an amazing kiddo!

With the upcoming census count, please check out our blog on the importance of making sure your family is counted! This is information that can be shared with every family! Please consider including this blog post in your professional or community newsletters. If you do, [send me an email](#) and let me know 😊

Each month I will feature a blog post, but feel free to check out the site on your own [here!](#)

And [click here](#) for our blog discussing the 2020 Census!

As always, if you have any success stories connecting families (or connecting your family) to services through FTF, could use some FTF materials for the families you serve or have questions and/ or ideas, let me know!!!

Have a wonderful March!

Connect with Us



[FirstThingsFirst.org/regions/Pinal](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org/regions/Pinal)

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