

2024

beginnings®



WHERE BELONGING BEGINS FOR DEAF &
HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN



ANNUAL REPORT



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www.beginningssc.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2024, I want to begin by saying thank you. This year brought unexpected challenges—from staff transitions to temporarily paused programming—but through it all, our mission never wavered.

Thanks to the dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and the resilience of the families we serve, we emerged stronger than ever. We've rebuilt with intention, welcomed incredible new team members, and laid the foundation for growth and sustainability.

Looking ahead, I'm filled with hope. We are more focused, more united, and more committed than ever to supporting families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing across South Carolina. Thank you for standing with us.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Preston Trippe

OUR MISSION

Beginnings SC provides expert knowledge and individualized planning strategies for parents, professionals, & communities to promote successful outcomes for children who are deaf or hard of hearing in South Carolina. We believe every SC child who is deaf or hard of hearing will reach his or her fullest potential.



Preston Trippe
Executive Director

Preston Trippe

BSC CORE VALUES IN ACTION

EDUCATE

We educate the families about the challenges that deaf and hard of hearing children face.

- Reached **174** families this year in **22** counties
- Partnered with **SC Hands & Voices** to host **7** Topic Tuesday webinars for parents and professionals.
- Hosted a Virtual Author Night.

ADVOCATE

Together with the family, we assemble and support both short and long term game plans that increase the opportunities for both the child and family.

- Received **43** new family referrals.
- Advocated with parents at **13 IEP meetings and pre-IEP preparation meetings.**
- Provided **2,431** minutes of **consultation to professionals and partner organizations**, helping ensure families received personalized, expert support.
- Facilitated **15 Preschool Transition Meetings**

FACILITATE

We connect and facilitate the professional resources required to maximize the successful belonging of both the child and the family.

- **1,498** of South Carolina's children received hearing screenings in **33** child care programs across the state totaling **11,756** children having been screened since the program's inception.
- Referred **37** families to partner organizations for additional support and services.
- Grew our online community through increased engagement and number of followers on our social media.
- **1,230** minutes participating in Task Forces, Coalitions, and Committee Meetings to improve outcomes for children across the state.



FROM THE HUNTE FAMILY

"When we were told Gemma had bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, I was completely lost on what we needed to do in order to support her in every way that we possibly could. I immediately started doing research and was able to find Beginnings SC. I quickly signed up for parent trainings and began working with Beginnings. Shortly after, we were presented with the opportunity to attend the EHDI conference in Denver, CO, in March.

I am forever grateful for the knowledge, support, and resources that Beginnings SC has provided and no longer feel lost on how to navigate parenting a child with hearing loss. I have been able to grow as one of Gemma's biggest advocates with the assistance of Beginnings SC."

- **Laura Hunte mother of Gemma Hunte**



SNAPSHOTS OF OUR YEAR!



- Brought together seven key agencies through a Language and Literacy Task Force to align strategies and advance early language and literacy outcomes for young children with hearing loss!
- Delivered presentations on hearing loss, D/HH inclusion, and OAE screenings at Francis Marion University, Columbia College, and Midlands Technical College to equip future professionals with knowledge and tools to support D/HH children.
- Partnered with SC Hands & Voices to host 7 Topic Tuesday Webinars that are recorded and shared!
- Hosted a virtual Author Night with Karlie Waldrip!



WITH YOUR HELP

174 families reached
43 new family referrals received
51 home visits
13 IEP meetings & prep meetings
15 Preschool Transition Meetings

Beginnings SC cannot wait to see what 2025 holds in store and is dedicated to providing the best quality of service to the families we serve.



ONWARD
&
UPWARD



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