

COUNTDOWN TO

4K

IS THE PROGRAM RIGHT  
FOR YOU?



### 1 What is Countdown to 4K?

The home visitation and relationship-based program is based off the nationally recognized model Countdown to Kindergarten, which was first developed by South Carolina First Steps in 2003 and has served more than 17,000 children statewide. It pairs families of rising 4K children at risk for school challenges with their future teachers during the summer before school.

### 2 How does it work?

Children's soon-to-be 4K teachers complete six visits with each family:

- Five one-hour home visits
- Last visit is at the child's school – family tours the school and classroom, meets key school personnel and becomes familiar with the child's 4K settings.
- Goals of the program are to increase family awareness of 4K expectations, create a positive relationship with the family and assure a smooth transition to school.

### 3 What are the benefits?

- Countdown to 4K is for both public and private, publicly funded 4K programs.
- For Dual Language Learner families and families with a rising 4K child with a disability, the Countdown to 4K program assures the families receive supports by providing follow-up phone calls or home visits. When available and as needed, books are provided in both English and Spanish.
- The relationships developed between the family and child's soon to be 4K teacher are carried into the school year so that these key partners can together support the child's progress in school.

*"Countdown to 4K will pave the path to school readiness with a smooth transition process and developmentally appropriate activities. I can't wait to see its success."*

**Shayla Pettigrew, South Carolina First Steps 4K Manager**



## HERE'S WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT COUNTDOWN TO 4K

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The program (Reading Rocks) has helped my grandson experience what real school will be like. He enjoyed the experience, and I can tell he learned more skills on top of what he knows.

[My child] was excited about learning new things. Not only is he learning, but I'm learning things about him. These activities help me know what I need to do better to prepare him for school. He received materials that we will use to help him with his learning. I am truly thankful that my child was given the opportunity to be in the Reading Rocks program.

**Quotes are from parents of Orangeburg County First Steps' Reading Rocks Program, a predecessor to Countdown to 4K.**

