

First Teacher: Alabama's Home Visiting Program

FIRST TEACHER MODELS

The ADECE First Teacher Home Visiting Program funds the use of three evidence-based home visiting models with multiple funding sources.

These models include:

Parents as Teachers

(PAT): Parents as Teachers allows families from prenatal to kindergarten to enroll. Professional home visitors partner with families to share information on development-center parenting, parent-child interaction, and family well-being.

Nurse Family

Partnership (NFP): The NFP works with low-income first-time mothers and their children to improve prenatal health and outcomes, child health and development, and family economic self-sufficiency.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY):

HIPPY is a home visiting model that focuses on parent-involved and parent-directed early learning. HIPPY services are offered to parents, who then work with their own 2- through 5-year-old children.



Improving Outcomes for Children and Families

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECE) is a part of the Executive Department of state government, principally established to enable the Governor to effectively and efficiently coordinate efforts and programs to serve children throughout the state. The ADECE is the designated lead state agency for home visiting in Alabama. Through the First Teacher Home Visiting Program, the ADECE provides home visiting in all 67 counties with the following funding sources: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV), Medicaid, Department of Human Resources (DHR), Governor Ivey's Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, and the state's Education Trust Fund (ETF).

First Teacher has improved the coordination of services with other local agencies, advisory boards, and children's policy councils. It has also improved breastfeeding rates, increased school readiness, prevented child abuse and neglect, reduced domestic violence, improved health outcomes for mothers and babies, improved family economic self-sufficiency, improved coordination and referrals for needed community resources and supports, and enhanced the ability to address mental health and behavioral needs of families through a new infant and early childhood mental health consultation program.

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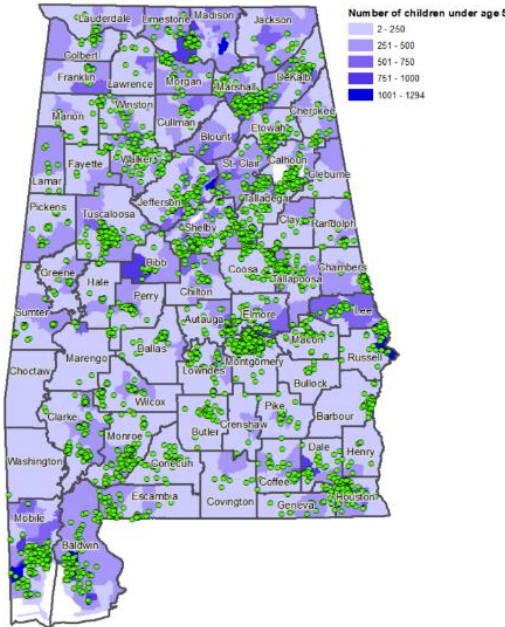
Families Served by First Teacher Home Visiting Program, 2020

How First Teacher works:

Through weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly visits, trained home visitors assess pregnant women and families' health and social support needs; make referrals for needed services available in their area and provide education and support to promote positive health and social outcomes.

2019-2020 First Teacher Data

- 3,485 families received services
- 54,609 home visits were provided
- 94% of caregivers received a depression screening
- 92% of children received a developmental screening



“I wanted to express how wonderful the First Teacher Home Visiting program has been for my family. At first, I was hesitant because of an experience with my oldest, but I went ahead and gave it another shot. It was the best decision I have ever made not just for my children, but for me. I thought this program was strictly for children, but it is so much more than that. It is for the family as a whole!” *Actual Participant*



Contact Us

Dianna Tullier, M.Ed.
Senior Director
Operations, Research &
Evaluation
First Teacher Home Visiting
(334) 235-4047
Dianna.Tullier@ece.alabama.gov

Jani Johnson
HIPPI State Lead
First Teacher Home Visiting
Technical Assistant
(334) 832-8139
Jani.Johnson@ece.alabama.gov

Kesha Whitehead, M.Ed.
PAT State Lead
First Teacher Home Visiting
Technical Assistant
(334) 832-8171
Kesha.Whitehead@ece.alabama.gov

Visit our website:

<https://children.alabama.gov/firstteacher/>