

Risk Factors Affecting School Readiness

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South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees has identified the following risk factors as those most likely to affect school readiness. First Steps utilizes these factors to prioritize services to children and families facing the greatest risks.

one of the following risk factors, with most (either 60%, 80% or 100% depending on the program) possessing 2 or more.

The child or family is enrolled in or eligible for Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF).

The child or family is enrolled in or eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The child has a disability or developmental delay as documented by a physician or standardized assessment (not a screening tool).

The child is blind or visually impaired.

The child is deaf or hearing impaired.

The child is eligible for IDEA Part B or Part C.

The child's mother or primary caregiver was 20 years old or younger at the time of the child's birth.

The child's mother or primary caregiver did not have a high school diploma or GED at the time of the child's birth.

The child's parent or caregiver has had a substance abuse issue during the child's lifetime.

The child's parent or caregiver has had depression or another mental health condition during the child's lifetime.

The child has been exposed to domestic violence within their family.

The child had a low birth weight (under 5.5 lbs) with serious medical complications.

English is not the primary language spoken in the child's home.

The child is experiencing homelessness.

The child is an immigrant or refugee.

The child has a parent or caregiver who was born in another country and entered the U.S. within the last five years.

The child has been removed from child care or preschool for behavioral reasons.
