

## How you can make a difference to young lives

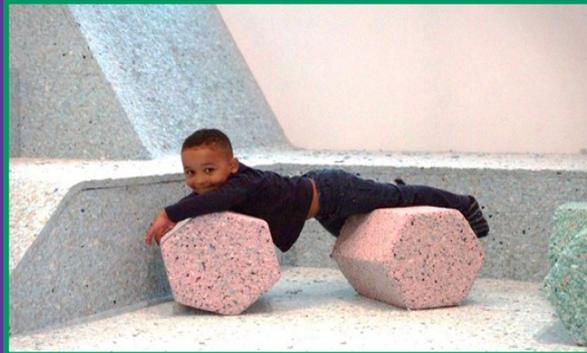
If you are able to support us with a donation, you can do so by sending us a cheque or going to our fundraising page at Local Giving:

[localgiving.org/charity/firststepsbath](http://localgiving.org/charity/firststepsbath)

You might also consider:

- undertaking a sponsored event, for example, the Bath Half Marathon, on behalf of First Steps
- organising a fundraising activity
- adopting First Steps as your community charity for fund raising activities

Please contact us by email: [info@firststepsbath.org.uk](mailto:info@firststepsbath.org.uk) or call 01225 444791



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**Thank you**



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Charity number: 1012690 Company number: 02656485

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2018/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gcse-and-equivalent-attainment-by-pupil-characteristics-2014>



First Steps Bath

# First Steps Fundraising 2018/19

**Help us to make more of a difference for more young children.**



We want to make more of a difference, by improving the life chances of young children who are at risk of being disadvantaged by poverty and family circumstances.

We are aiming to do this by raising £55,000 in 2018/19 to enhance the learning and development opportunities for vulnerable children.

## Summary

Your support, for First Steps (Bath) will make a difference to the lives of young children, particularly those who may be at risk of being disadvantaged by poverty and family circumstances.

We are aiming, in 2018- 2019, to improve life chances for these young children by fundraising for three additional projects that will enhance the learning and development opportunities for vulnerable children in Bath:

Redeveloping the outdoor learning area at Moorlands Children's Centre	£35,000
Providing free midday meals for young children	£15,000
Trips, activities and educational equipment	£ 5,000

## Who are we?

First Steps (Bath) is a Registered Charity and an accredited Social Enterprise. Our aim is to improve outcomes for children by working with their families and their community to raise aspiration. We do this through the provision of quality, inclusive child care and family support that enables children to access education and learning in a warm and welcoming environment and supports their parents back into education, training and employment.

## The Need

Sadly there are there are pockets of deprivation within the communities in which First Steps works. IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) data shows that Twerton is amongst the ten most deprived wards in the West of England, and with other wards in our area, is among the 20% most deprived across the UK.

The percentage of children living in poverty in Twerton (36% of children) and Southdown (29% of children) is the highest in Bath and North East Somerset. We know that childhood poverty has lasting effects, by GCSE there is a 28% gap between children having free school meals and their wealthier peers in terms of their achieving 5 A to C grades at GCSE.

The early years are critical for building the foundations for learning for all children, especially for children in disadvantaged communities. The 2016 National Audit Office report stated:

“Research shows good-quality early education helps children’s speech and language development; literacy and numeracy; social development; and readiness for school. Existing evidence also suggests that good-quality early education can have a disproportionately positive effect on children from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

If, because of disadvantage, children fail to achieve a good level of development in their early years they rarely ‘catch up’ and therefore subsequently fail to achieve good outcomes from their school education.

Quartet Community Foundation’s Vital Signs research identified the need for investment in education, training and skills.

## Why are we looking for this additional funding?

Your support will help the young children in Bath who are most at risk of being disadvantaged by poverty and family circumstances.

Our services are totally inclusive, at any one time we work with around a third of children have special education needs or family support needs. Our staff have additional training to understand the barriers to children’s effective learning. Your donation to First Steps truly makes a difference. We work in partnership with families, building on strengths and preventing the issues that stop children from becoming active and confident learners.

The proportion of children achieving a good level of development in the areas of disadvantage in which we work has been increasing and is much higher than the level of disadvantage would indicate.

Your support will enable First Steps to make more of a difference

### Redeveloping the outdoor learning area at First Steps Moorlands £35,000

After many years planning we are now in a position to rebuild First Steps Moorlands and as a result the outdoor areas will become a temporary building site. We are raising money to bring back the space to be an innovative outdoor classroom where children can explore the wonders of nature, dance, and climb and have fun



### Providing free meals £15,000

We will use this money to provide a free, nutritionally balanced midday meal, in our day-care settings, to young children of families who would qualify for free school meals. (The statutory free school meals scheme does not apply to pre-school children).



This will ensure that young children, from poorer families, eat at least one good meal a day and are in the best position to benefit from learning and development opportunities in the nursery. It also affords the opportunity for us to support parents towards providing a nutritionally balanced diet for their children. Parents tell us that they value this provision, that it helps parents manage low income and widens the types of food that children will eat.

### Providing trips, activities and educational supplies £5,000

We will use this money to invest in play equipment and trips which will enable us to provide an enriched range of opportunities for learning and development for all young children attending our day-care settings and groups. We would like to take the children to Noah’s Arc or The Wild Place Project.

