



Parents As Teachers (PAT)



What is Parents As Teachers?	Kansas Parents As Teachers is a universal home-based program of parent education for families with children up to 3 years of age designed to give children the best possible start in life and to prepare them for school success by supporting parents in their role as children's first and most important teachers. The PAT program includes: • Regularly scheduled personal visits by a credentialed parent educator who offers timely information about stages of child development and responds to parents' questions and concerns. • Group meetings with parents of like-aged children where parents can share their experiences, common concerns, successes and build support networks. • Monitoring of children's progress by parents and their parent educator to detect any emerging concerns as early as possible. • Early partnership and referral network to link parents with community resources and serve as an early link to the school district.
Authorization	K.S.A. 72-3603 <i>et seq.</i> the Parent Education Program authorizes school districts to receive grants to provide expectant parents and parents of any child under the age of eligibility for school attendance with advice, assistance, resource materials, guidance, parenting skills, positive approach to discipline and development of a positive self-esteem.
Who can Participate?	The Kansas Parents As Teachers program began in 1990 with funding of \$980,000 and 92 school districts. The program has expanded with 2008-09 funding at \$7.5 million to 218 school districts and serves 15,197 families and 19,314 children. The PAT program is available in participating school districts. The school district matches every \$1.00 of state funds with \$.65 of local funds. In 2008-09, local school districts provided \$5.8 million in matched funding. There is no charge to families participating in the program.
Vision	All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.
Goals	• Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices. • Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues. • Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect • Increase children's school readiness and school success
TEAM CONTACT	
Janet Newton, Education Program Consultant Kansas State Department of Education 120 SE 10th Avenue Topeka, KS 66612-1182 785-296-4964 jnewton@ksde.org www.ksde.org	The KSDE School Readiness Project found that kindergartners who had participated in PAT for 2 or more years scored higher in symbolic development, math concepts, written language and oral communication. Parents who participated in Parents As Teachers were more likely to read to their children daily. Children whose parents read daily to their children were more likely to have higher readiness scores.