



Parents As Teachers

A fun, early-learning program sponsored by local school districts for soon-to-be parents and parents with children up to three years of age.

Research Shows:

PAT children outscored their peers on measures of school readiness and later school achievement.

PAT children were more advanced than other 3 year-olds in language and social development, problem-solving, and other intellectual skills.

PAT children performed better than non-PAT children in elementary school.

PAT parents took a more active role in their children's schooling than did non-PAT parents.

PAT was found to reduce placement in special education; lower incidence of abuse and neglect.

What We Do:

Personalized home visits with a certified Parent Educator, trained in child development, who is eager to help parents give their children the best beginning.

Family Play Times where families can learn new things about children, parenting and share experiences with other parents.

Regular Developmental Screenings to make sure children don't have any undetected learning problems.

A Resource Network that can help parents find services in their community, if needed, that are beyond what PAT can do.

How to Contact Us:

Kansas Parent Information
Resource Center
PO Box 320
Lecompton, KS 66050
1.866.711.6711
www.kpirc.org

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PAT Update

Helping Kansas to be the best state in the nation to raise children.

A Special Feature with Information on PAT Involvement and Early Childhood Development



Kansas PTA and Parents as Teachers

The Kansas Parent Teacher Association (**Kansas PTA**) and the Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (**KPATA**) are beginning a joint venture to promote their mutual interest in families with children prenatal to 5 years of age. Some of our mutual interests include:

Working for the welfare of children.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) parents acquire skills to help make the most of these crucial early-learning years. The program covers child development prenatally to age 5; suggests activities that encourage language development, intellectual growth, and social and motor skills.

PTA believes that children's success in school and beyond depends to a large extent on their development during the early years. An early childhood **PTA** provides parents with support and resources during children's early years.

Universal access to our programs and activities.

Parents as Teachers is a home-school-community partnership designed to give all children the best possible start in life. The program funded by the Kansas State Department of Education is open to any parent or guardian wanting more information on how their children grow and develop.

PTA is for all individuals (parents, care givers, educators, and community members) interested in the education and development of children starting at birth.

Enriching the lives of young children and their families.

Parents as Teachers fosters optimal development of young children, assesses development, and increases parenting skills by helping parents know what to expect and what not to expect in their child's development.

PTA helps new parents feel more comfortable and secure. Becoming involved is a way to dissolve the isolation parents or guardians may experience the first years of their child's life.

Promote positive parent/child interactions.

Parents as Teachers is based on the philosophy that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. The program suggests activities that strengthen the parent-child relationship or attachment such as face-to-face talking, following the child's lead in play, holding and cuddling while reading, holding during infant feeding, etc.

PTA offers a foundation for affirming young children as they grow and develop. **PTA** provides support, resources, programs and activities to assist families of young children. The programs and activities of an early childhood **PTA** are determined by the interests and needs of each **PTA** group.

PAT and Kansas PTA: Mutual Interests

Traditionally associated with schools.

Parents as Teachers in Kansas is offered through the local school district and can also be a part of a comprehensive family education and support system of services. In Kansas Parents as Teachers is also offered in Even Start and Migrant Even Start, Title I programs, Early Head Start, programs for teen parents, Healthy Families, Bureau of Indian Affairs, schools, military bases, Infant and Toddler Services and Healthy Start. Parents as Teachers has also been adapted successfully for child care centers and for corporate workplace.

PTA is also offered in schools. An early childhood **PTA** may be organized in preschool or nursery school facilities, day-care centers, places of employment, kindergartens, libraries, and recreational facilities as well as in Parents as Teachers Programs. All children benefit as families and communities join together in meaningful activities in an atmosphere of mutual respect and unity.



Promote parent involvement in their children's education.

Parents as Teachers promotes parent involvement in learning to help put children on the right track for later achievement in school and life. Parents as Teachers-certified parent educators, trained in child development and home visiting, meet with families individually. Parent educators and parents partner to understand each stage of the child's development, encourage learning and manage challenging behaviors.

PTA offers a base for building parental support of children as they enter the formal school years. **PTA** has been promoting parent involvement for over 100 years. Through a preschool **PTA** parents demonstrate their commitment to early childhood development and discover how being in a **PTA** can help them promote, organize, structure and strengthen their involvement in their child's education.

How does a PAT-PTA Program get started?

What are the benefits?

Opportunities for Children:

- support of early learning
- interaction with other children during playgroups and parent/child group meetings
- development of social skills necessary for relating to others
- strengthening parent/child attachment which strengthens learning and social/emotional skills

Opportunities for Families:

- detection of special needs of children
- gain and use of parenting skills that support and guide child's growth
- involvement with other parents
- participation in programs and events designed for families with young children
- growth among members in becoming advocates for young children
- access to the local PAT program's materials and parent educators

Opportunities for Communities:

- unified efforts in securing needed services for young children
- support systems for families with young children
- strong linkages between PAT, public schools, and families

Contact **Kansas PTA** and a representative will guide you in getting started. The procedures for organizing a Parents as Teachers **PTA** unit are the same as those for organizing any **PTA**.

Parents as Teachers **PTA** members may decide to affiliate with an existing **PTA** and function as a committee of the larger group, or they may decide to become a separate **PTA** unit. The choice is made by the members based on their needs and priorities.

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