



PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home-visiting program that provides parent education to new and expectant parents, with the aim of promoting positive child development and preventing child maltreatment. PAT focuses on increasing parents' knowledge of early childhood development, improving parenting practices, facilitating early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, and enhancing school readiness and success.

The PAT model encompasses four core components: personal home visits, supportive group connection events, child health and developmental screenings, and community resource networks. PAT is designed to be flexible and cater to the diverse needs of families, although specific PAT sites typically target families with identified risk factors.

Parents as Teachers is recognized as a well-supported practice by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (<https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/>).

Target Population

PAT offers **services to new and expectant parents, starting prenatally and continuing until their child reaches kindergarten**. PAT is a home visiting model that is designed to be used in any community and with any family during early childhood. However, many PAT programs target families in possible high-risk environments such as teen parents, low income, parental low educational attainment, history of substance abuse in the family, and chronic health conditions.

Dosage

Families can receive services prenatally until their child starts kindergarten. Parent educators meet with families for about an hour at a time. The frequency of meetings can range from biweekly to monthly, based on need.

Recommended Locations/Delivery Settings

PAT is usually delivered in homes, but can also be delivered in schools, childcare centers, or other community spaces.

Education, Certifications and Training

Parent educators must have a high school degree or GED with two or more years of experience working with children and parents. In order to receive their PAT certification, all parent educators must attend a three-day foundational training. They must also attend a two-day model implementation training that covers strategies used to implement PAT. The PAT National Center also offers technical assistance and certification renewal sessions.



Parents As Teachers, continued



Materials for PAT have been translated into Spanish, French, Mandarin, and German.

Contact Information for Developers

Website: <https://parentsasteachers.org/>

Phone: (314) 432-4330

Email: allison.kemner@parentsasteachers.org or kerry.caverly@parentsasteachers.org

States outside of Florida implementing PAT under FFPSA:

- Kansas
 - Website: <https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/pps/pages/ffpsa.aspx>
- Nebraska
 - Website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Family-First.aspx>
 - Email: DHHS.FamilyFirst@nebraska.gov
- Ohio
 - Website: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/family-first.stm>
 - Email: familyfirst@jfs.ohio.gov
- Washington
 - Website: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ffpsa>
 - POC: Phyllis Duncan-Souza, Family First Prevention Services Administrator
 - Email: Phyllis.duncan-souza2@dcyf.wa.gov
 - Phone: 253-312-4226
- Wisconsin
 - Website: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first>
 - Email: dcfhomevisiting@wisconsin.gov or dcfweb@wisconsin.gov
- Michigan
 - Website: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/prevention-services>
- North Dakota
 - Website: <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/family-first>
 - Email: dhscfs@nd.gov