How Parents as Teachers Supports Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

Parents as Teachers (PAT) uses a relationship-based approach and home visitation model that helps children grow up healthy, safe and ready to learn in all environments.

What is Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) care?

Child care provided by a family, friend or neighbor in an informal home setting is the most popular type of child care across all socioeconomic groups. Many working parents prefer this method of care because of its flexibility, consistent environment, and the special bonds that already exist between the caregiver and child.

What are the challenges with FFN care?

Although FFN care can be a safe and comfortable choice for families, these informal settings do not always address health and safety concerns, or provide the educational enrichment found in high-quality care settings.

Did you know...

- Research supports the effectiveness of home visits as a method of supporting family, friend and neighbor care providers. Through its Supporting Care Providers through Personal Visits curriculum, PAT provides caregivers with critical tools and support to improve both the quality of care and the environment by providing:
  - Information about child development, health and safety.
  - Age-appropriate activities to impact learning and development.
- Support on handling parent-caregiver relationships and child-caregiver relationships.

A study by Cornell University researchers found that care provider visits using the PAT curriculum significantly increased the quality of care they offered.

- Overall quality of the care setting increased.
- Children's language and reasoning skills improved.
- Children's social development increased.

Today, Supporting Care Providers through Personal Visits is cited as the most widely used by programs providing home visits to informal care providers.