Focus on Fatherhood: Supporting Teen Dads

Did you know that Parents as Teachers has a specific approach to support teen dads? Look no further than our national home here in Missouri for success stories, in a strong effort supported by federal grants. “Engaging fathers more intimately in the education of children is so important,” said Dr. Stacey Preis, Deputy Commissioner, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. “We are so pleased to support Parents as Teachers in this important project.”

Teen fathers in the St. Louis area and southwest Missouri gather for weekly and bi-weekly group meetings that incorporate the Parents as Teachers Focus on Fathering curriculum. Fatherhood facilitators, Duane Gill and Lester Gillespie, orchestrate the sessions. Twenty-five active fathers are attending the gatherings which began in February. Plans are in the works to expand the service to additional counties in the Missouri Bootheel, thanks to the “Right from the Start” grant from the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health. The grant provides funding to help adolescent teens improve their parenting skills and learn about and address the developmental needs of infants and young children. For more information about reaching out to teen fathers, email Kristen Mandrell, Project Manager, at Kristen.Mandrell@parentsasteachers.org.

Check out the Fatherhood Toolkit (available at ParentsAsTeachers.org) or download the Focus on Fathering curriculum here.

Founded in Missouri in 1984, Parents as Teachers serves more than 212,000 children in all 50 U.S. states, more than 115 Tribal organizations, schools and communities, and six other countries. Its internationally recognized network of affiliates uses an evidence-based model to deliver parent education primarily through personal visits and group meetings, equipping parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children, from birth through kindergarten, for a stronger start in life and greater success in school. For more information, visit www.ParentsAsTeachers.org.
Advocacy in Action

The Government and Community Relations team is working hard to keep Parents as Teachers (PAT) well positioned with state governments and at the federal level. This team works with Affiliates to seek recognitions, meet with legislators, serve on influential committees, build champions and cultivate relationships with decision makers. Here are some of the highlights from the past several months.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma State Department of Health and Office of Family Support and Prevention Service recognized two Oklahoma affiliates as child abuse prevention leaders.

Tennessee

Tennessee Governor’s Children’s Cabinet, co-chaired by Governor Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam, recognized Knox County Schools Parents as Teachers Program as winner of Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations, and for School Excellence.

New York

Rosary Kolivas, ED, Jamestown Community Learning Council Parents as Teachers (PAT) affiliate, recently coordinated a meeting with state legislators, Senator Catharine Young and Assemblyman Andrew Goodell to speak about ways to expand PAT.

California

Four hundred and fifty thousand California children, ages 0-5, are eligible for home visiting, but not being served. With our new staff presence, we have met with many organizations interested in meeting that need through PAT. Our current focus is on the Central and Coachella Valleys, the Bay Area, and a number of underserved, rural counties. Visit our booth at the August Home Visiting Summit in Sacramento!

Missouri

A series of focus groups with key stakeholders is being conducted with nurses, physicians, clinic staff and other medical professionals to develop a plan to fully integrate PAT services into pediatric and medical practices and clinics. This is the first stage of the five-year federal Healthy Tomorrows grant with the Springfield Public Schools’ PAT program and Every Child Promise initiative.

Letter from the President and CEO

Parents as Teachers provides information, support and education through its network of early learning professionals and parent educators to engage parents and prepare their young children for school and lifelong success. The combined efforts of our staff, affiliates and parent educators is the foundation of what we do to empower families and transform communities.

I am pleased to introduce you to the inaugural issue of the Parents as Teachers newsletter. Many of you have told us that you would like a way to connect more with Parents as Teachers both at its National Center and through its network of early education professionals and early childhood partners in the field. We invite you to check out some of the stories in this issue.

In honor of Father’s Day, June 19, our cover story is a Focus on Fatherhood, and all about deeper parenting engagement.

We also have highlighted one of our partnerships, the University of Southern California School of Social Work, embracing technology to impact more families.

Our quarterly newsletter will be distributed both digitally and in print and will highlight programs, promote upcoming events, feature news from partners, affiliates and the Parents as Teachers National Center. Going forward, we hope the newsletter will help you stay informed of our latest activities, accomplishments and new developments in the early childhood field. We also look for your ideas, comments and suggestions in the coming months. Enjoy!

Warmest Regards,

Scott Hippert

President and CEO

Left: Kellie Payne, R.N. and Parent Educator, Oklahoma Department of Health Parents as Teachers Pilot Program.
Center: CEO, Scott Hippert and Patty DeMoraes-Huffine, Director of the Treatment Programs at LCDA.
Right: Tennessee Governor’s Children’s Cabinet, co-chaired by Governor Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam, recognized Knox County Schools Parents as Teachers Program as winner of Governor’s Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations, and for School Excellence.
Awards and Honors

Seven thousand parent educators serve as the face of Parents as Teachers. These educators work with families, schools and affiliates throughout the United States, and six other countries to ensure that children have the best start possible. Last year alone, parent educators made more than 1.7 million personal visits, reaching nearly 212,000 children.

New Look for Parents as Teachers

As a part of our strategic planning process, we are updating the look of our collateral marketing materials. You will start to see some of this new look in the upcoming months and we’d love to hear your comments. Look for more to come!

The 2016 Parents as Teachers Conference will be held October 17-19, 2016, at the Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.

For additional information or to submit applications for 2016 Parent Educator of the Year, visit: www.parentsasteachers.org/training/conference.

Summer Safety

Summer is here and Parents as Teachers parent educators are working to ensure that parents have the information they need to keep their kids safe. Here are a few pointers from the experts:

• **Swimming:** Enroll children in age-appropriate swimming lessons to help ensure their safety around water. There are a number of community programs available that teach water safety.

• **Sun Exposure:** Keep children protected with sunscreen, sun-protective hats, proper clothing, and UV-blocking sunglasses. When using sunscreen, look for one with an SPF of at least 30 that screens out both UVA and UVB rays, apply liberally, and reapply every two hours.

• **Playgrounds:** Check all playground equipment to make sure it is well maintained before allowing kids to play. This includes slides, swings, and other surfaces that can burn a child.

• **BBQ’s, Bonfires, and Cookouts:** Steer little ones away from campfires and make sure they are aware of the dangers of matches and lighters often left around fire-pits.

To find a Parents as Teachers program near you, visit ParentsAsTeachers.org and click on “Program Locator.”
Partnership Power

Parents as Teachers places special emphasis on creating and deepening partnerships with companies, groups and organizations that also value the importance of early childhood education. Here's how Parents as Teachers National Center is working with one such partner, University of Southern California School, School of Social Work, in Los Angeles, California, to make virtual parent education a reality.

Parents as Teachers Launches Home-Visiting Program With Technology Twist

Parents as Teachers National Center and the University of Southern California School, School of Social Work, have successfully launched a pilot program marrying the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model with USC Telehealth. Funded through the Coalition for Research on Engagement and Well-Being (CREW) and the Overdeck Family Foundation, the pilot represents a transformational move by Parents as Teachers to adapt its services to a 'virtual' format to reach more families in underserved communities, and to support today’s tech-savvy parents.

Families in the study receive Parents as Teachers service components via live, web-based, video conference sessions. Individualized, live personalized visits take place online, along with child health and development screenings, community support referrals, and group gatherings with other parents.

“Read what the media are saying:
Education Week and Education News

Learn how to explore a partnership with us here:
www.parentsasteachers.org/support-us/partner-with-us

On the Cutting Edge

New Software Supports Field

The Parents as Teachers National Center is continually working to provide the most effective ways to support parent educators, affiliates, and programs worldwide. In the past year, Parents as Teachers introduced Athena Software-System – PENEOPE.

Penelope is a secure web-based case management software system designed to streamline data entry, recordkeeping and reporting. This system offers real-time analytics to help parent educators, affiliates, and case management coordinators fully manage data-driven family support services.

Penelope allows end users to deliver consistent, timely and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant data analysis while at the same time providing faster access to critical information to track and develop reporting. The system allows for ongoing customization to meet the many needs of Parents as Teachers. The Penelope Beyond the Basics workshop will be available at the 2016 Parents as Teachers Conference. Register at: www.parentsasteachers.org/training/conference.

“Parents as Teachers & USC Telehealth program is fundamentally expanding the ways parent education and family support services are provided, from in-home visiting to a live online platform. We intend to demonstrate that the model can be delivered effectively and with fidelity in a virtual environment.”

– Scott Hippert, President and CEO of Parents as Teachers

Curriculum Corner

Knowledge Studio™

Knowledge Studio™ is a series of products and services developed by Parents as Teachers that offers specialized curricula and training, both online and face-to-face, on a variety of topic-specific areas for professionals working with children and families.

Special Needs Offerings

This fall, a new and revised curriculum and training from the Knowledge Studio™ is available. Designed for family support professionals, therapists and early childhood educators, Interactions Across Abilities: Supporting Families of Children with Special Needs offers many insights. It focuses around parents’ reactions to a diagnosis, sibling relationships, the service continuum, adaptations and assistive technologies. It is designed to encompass the child within the family as a unit and focuses on parent-child interaction, play, parenting behaviors and other topics that contribute to the child’s everyday world.

The curriculum can be purchased as a stand-alone product or in combination with the fully revised Supporting Families of Children With Special Needs training. The training delivers insights about the roles of family support professionals, as well as parents’ perspectives, strengths, and challenges. For more information, visit: www.parentsasteachers.org/resources/interactions.
Board Buzz

Members of the Parents as Teachers Board of Directors value and demonstrate commitment to the vision, mission and principles that guide the work of the organization. They are invested in ensuring that Parents as Teachers National Center and its affiliates continue to support the healthy development of young children and families at local, state and national levels and they serve as our best ambassadors and advocates. Here’s how one board member is creating awareness for the work of Parents as Teachers in the area of early STEM education.

Building Early STEM Skills Through Block Play

Young children + parents + interactive block building = future scientists, architects and engineers. That’s the message board member, Patricia Kempthorne, took to a recent White House-sponsored Early Learning STEM Symposium as she highlighted BLOCK Fest™, a research-based initiative designed to equip children ages 8 months to 8 years (and their families) with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills through block play.

To find out more about BLOCK Fest™ please visit: www.blockfest.org.

Patricia Kempthorne is the founder of The Twiga Foundation, a former First Lady of Idaho, and a long-time advocate for children and families in her home state and nationally. She serves as the Vice Chair of the Parents as Teachers Board of Directors and was just named a 2016 National Mother of Achievement.

Spotlight

“All That Jazz” Program in Normandy, Missouri

The Normandy School District Parents as Teachers Program is rocking! The program is partnering with Jazz St. Louis to offer the WeBop series to participating families.

WeBop is an early childhood jazz education program which invites families to stomp, strut and swing to the joyous rhythms of jazz as they learn about the core concepts, great performers and instruments of jazz with their parents or caregivers. This eight-week class offers a creative outlet for children to explore jazz through movement, songs, storytelling and play.

Special thanks to our generous donors who have raised $266,186 to date for Normandy: Dana Brown Charitable Trust, Allen P. and Josephine B. Green Foundation, Trio Foundation, Norman J. Stupp Foundation, PNC, Express Scripts, Boeing, Emerson, Children’s Services Fund, Roblee, Greater St. Louis Book Fair (two grants), and Wells Fargo Advisors.

Normandy Schools Collaborative Parents as Teachers program also is hosting the What You Do Matters series to their parents. During this six-week series, parents learn how play and everyday interactions help their child’s development.

Above: Normandy events in action.
Upcoming Events

2016 Conference for Early Childhood Professionals!

Save the Date: October 17-19, 2016
Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

Preconference Workshops
9 am – 4 pm = $225

October 18 = $375

Total Cost of Conference = $525
(With full Conference Discount)
• Single Day Passes Are Available

Lodging
• Before 7/31 = $375
• After 8/1/16 = $450

Keynote Speakers

Keynote Opening Reception – October 17
• John O’Leary, Author, Inspirational Speaker

Keynote Closing Luncheon – October 19
• Bob Sallis, MD, Kaiser Permanente

Closing Speaker – October 19
• Patricia Kempthome, Founder, Twiga Foundation and Parents As Teachers Board Member

Download the 2016 Parents as Teachers Conference App for information about speakers, tracks, and more.

https://hub.attendify.com/account/login

For additional information about Conference please visit: www.parentsasteachers.org/training/conference