Partner. Reflect. Facilitate.

Please join the Parents as Teachers community on ArchiveStoryCorps.org. Record your story and submit it to the Parents as Teachers archive community. Use the instructions below to get started.

**Estimated Time:** The planning, recording and uploading process will take a minimum of two hours.

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**Overview**

- **Listen to** an example story on the archive to get a feel for how it all works. StoryCorps is intended for two people to participate, and for each person to ask the other a set of questions.

- **Choose an interview partner.** Pick a parent, parent educator, supervisor, state leader or stakeholder. Think about whose story you want to hear and preserve. Who would you like to know more about? What unique perspective do they share of the past 35 years? Whom would you like to honor by recording and sharing his or her story with the world? What does the future of Parents as Teachers and home visiting look like?

- **Download the StoryCorps app.** Follow the link on the front of the StoryCorps.me page to either the iTunes store (Apple users) or the Google Play store (Android users) to download the app to your mobile device. The free mobile app puts the StoryCorps experience entirely in your hands so that you can record and archive a meaningful conversation with anyone, anywhere. The app guides users through the interview experience, from start to finish with easy-to-use tools to help you prepare interview questions, record high-quality conversations on your mobile device, and upload the audio to the Library of Congress and the online archive.

- **Make sure you have uninterrupted time.** Parents as Teachers is hoping to collect StoryCorps interviews that are at least 20-30 minutes long, so it is best to find a comfortable, quiet space in which to record.
Prepare your questions

• View the Parents as Teachers National Center StoryCorps Archive page online to see lists of questions by situation. Choose a list that is most appropriate for you, or use the questions at the end of this toolkit. Leave out the questions that you are not comfortable answering or that do not fit the storyline. It’s OK if the questions stir up emotions.

• As you record your interview, listen closely and ask follow-up questions. Talk to each other, not to an audience. Encourage your interviewee to tell a story. We have found that this will help the two of you form a connection and opens up the possibility that the conversation will take an exciting and unexpected turn.

• Leave time to wrap up the conversation. Time will fly and the app will automatically stop recording after 45 minutes, so it is important to make sure you save time to conclude your interview and thank your interviewee for sharing his or her story with you. It’s OK if your interview is shorter.

• Make sure your interviewee has consented to having his or her voice recorded using the StoryCorps app. Follow your organization’s consent rules, which may require written authorization.

Choose a quiet location

• Look for rooms with carpeting that will absorb noise, and try to avoid ones that have an echo or windows that look out on trafficked streets. Also avoid public places where crowds and background noises will interfere with recording. Always remember to mute your phone, turn off TVs and music, and silence electronic devices and heat and air conditioning. Before starting, think about anything that may prevent you or your interviewee from focusing on each other or may cause a distraction.

• Be aware of appliances, air conditioners, rustling of papers, TV or other background noise, like tapping of feet or jingly jewelry. They will impact recording.

Do a practice run

• Do a run-through of your process.

• Review the questions ahead of time. Think about what you want to say before you record, but don’t write anything down. Interviews that sound scripted or read directly from a script will not be accepted. Be authentic.
Record your interview

- The StoryCorps app only allows a single recording. There is no editing feature.
- Sit close together and make eye contact. It is suggested that each person sits across from one another at a small table with the phone in the center of the table.
- Note that the microphone is typically located on the bottom of your mobile device, so for the best sound quality, make sure it is pointed toward the person speaking. Once you start recording, do not move the phone around.
- Both participants should begin by identifying themselves and explaining their connection to each other.

Sample script for all interviews

| Interviewer: | My name is (interviewer’s full name). I am (age) years old/ today is (present month, day). I am recording this interview in (city, state), and I am speaking with (partner’s name) who is my (relationship between participants). |
| Partner: | My name is (partner’s full name). I am (age) years old. |
| Interviewer: | Begin interviewing your partner by reading each question and letting your partner answer. |
| Partner: | As soon as the first round of questions are complete, immediately begin interviewing your partner with an alternate set of questions. Be ready with the list so you do not record paper shuffling or have an awkward transition. |

(At the end of the interview, thank the interviewee for sharing their story) “Thank you so much for sitting with me to tell me your story.” (Then stop recording.) Be certain to wait a few seconds at the end, to make sure you are no longer recording.

Snap a photo

The StoryCorps app allows storytellers to snap a photo of the two interviewees together to be included as a part of the story. Don’t forget this important step. Pictures are powerful. Quick selfies together are great! Make certain to wipe off your camera lens beforehand, and smile big! Include children in your photo if appropriate.
Upload your story

- Complete the prompts to title your interview.
  - Sample title
    - Kerry and Anne talk about their experience in the Parents as Teachers home visiting program.
  - Sample description
    - Sherice and Angela discuss overcoming domestic violence and how an in-home parenting program helped Angela stay resilient.
  - Be certain to enter the following three “tags:” parenting, home visiting, and Parents as Teachers.

- After your interview has concluded and the title, description and location has been filled in, you will be prompted to upload your interview to StoryCorps. Make sure you are connected to Wi-Fi when uploading your interview. Depending on your connection speed, it may take several minutes to complete the upload.
- Your published interview will then be included on the StoryCorps.me website, as well as in an archive housed at the American Folklife Center at the United States Library of Congress for future generations to listen to, learn from and enjoy. Your story will also be made public.

- After uploading, the app will then offer you the opportunity to seamlessly email or text a link to your interview – to anyone you like. This will allow friends and family to have their own copy and to listen and enjoy at their convenience. You can also share the recording on your organization’s social sites or website.
Become a part of the Parents as Teachers StoryCorps Archive Community

- A user has to be a member of a community to submit an interview to the Parents as Teachers National Center Story Corps Archive. Please note that you can only join the Parents as Teachers Archive community via the web at archive.storycorps.org by using a laptop or desktop computer. You cannot join a community via the StoryCorps App.
- To join our community, create an account on the StoryCorps Archive login at: https://archive.storycorps.org/login/. Use your app to login.
- Search for: Parents as Teachers National Center StoryCorps Archive, and "join" the community.

Submit your story to the Parents as Teachers National Center StoryCorps Archive (DON’T SKIP THIS STEP)

- After your story is submitted, you will receive a confirmation email that your story has been submitted.

Review Process

- Stories submitted to the Parents as Teachers Archive will be reviewed and approved for inclusion into the Parents as Teachers community. Stories may be used during the Parents as Teachers 35th Anniversary Celebration activities throughout 2019, including during a Jubilee Celebration, on social media, in videos, on websites and in other places.
- When the national office has reviewed and accepted your interview into the community, you will receive a confirmation email.
- Poorly recorded interviews will not be accepted to the archive. Parents as Teachers National Center has sole discretion on whether or not stories will be accepted on the Parents as Teachers archived page.

Need help?

Contact Lisa Foehner, Director of Advocacy and Strategic Messaging, for more information.
Interview Questions

Parent Educator to Parent

• When did you first find out that you’d be a parent? How did you feel?
• Can you describe the moment when you saw your child for the first time?
• Do you have any favorite stories about your kids?
• How has being a parent changed you?
• What are you proudest of as a parent?
• What do you remember about your home visitor or Parents as Teachers experience that had a particularly strong influence on your life or your family? Tell me about them.
• What does your future hold?
• What are your hopes for what the future holds for your children?
• Thinking about your family many generations from now, and knowing that others may hear this recording, is there anything you want to say to them about family or about Parents as Teachers or about being a parent?

Parent Educator to Parent – Option #2

• Can you tell me a little bit about your childhood? What were you like as a child?
• Can you tell me one of your happiest memories? Can you tell me about one of your hardest memories?
• How has your life been different than what you’d imagined?
• When did you first find out that you’d be a parent? How did you feel?
• Can you tell me about some of the most important lessons you’ve learned about parenting?
• Speaking of advice and parenting, how did being involved in Parents as Teachers home visiting impact your life?
• What are you proudest of – personally or professionally – in your life?
• What advice would you give others about raising their own kids?
• What does your future hold?
**Parent to Parent Educator**

- When did you first become a home visitor for Parents as Teachers? Where did you work with families and what was the community like there?
- How did it feel to work with families as a home visitor?
- Can you describe the moment when you saw a family overcome a certain obstacle? How did that make you feel?
- How has being a home visitor changed you?
- What was one of the hardest moments you had as a home visitor?
- Do you have any favorite stories about my family that you’d like to share?
- What do you remember about your experience as a Parents as Teachers home visitor experience that had a particularly strong influence on your life or your career? Tell me about them.
- What advice would you give to new home visitors?
- What are you proudest of as a home visitor?

**Question for Technical Assistant, State Leader/Staff (a non-Parent Educator)**

- How and when did you first become involved with Parents as Teachers? What was your role?
- What are some of the obstacles you think are hardest for families in your community? How do you think Parents as Teachers can improve outcomes?
- If appropriate, what do you remember about your experience as a Parents as Teachers home visitor that had a particularly strong influence on your life or your career? Tell me about your memories.
- What was your favorite memory of that job?
- What’s the one thing you wish others knew about Parents as Teachers?
- If you were to look forward 35 years, what would you think the future holds for Parents as Teachers as it serves families and makes an impact on communities?
Questions for a Parents as Teachers Supporter
• How did you first come to know about Parents as Teachers?
• What are some of the obstacles you think are hardest for families in your community to overcome?
• What compels you to support Parents as Teachers?
• Do you have any favorite stories about your children?
• How has being a parent changed you?
• When did you first find out that you’d be a parent? How did you feel?
• Thinking about your family many generations from now, and knowing that others may hear this recording, is there anything you want to say to them about family or about Parents as Teachers or about being a parent?

Questions for a Parents as Teachers Supporter – Option #2
• What do you think is most compelling about how Parents as Teachers helps families? Do you have any favorite stories about your involvement in Parents as Teachers as a supporter?
• How has being involved with Parents as Teachers changed you?
• What were your parents like?
• Can you tell me a little bit about your childhood? What were you like as a child?
• How did you first come to know about Parents as Teachers?
• What are some of the obstacles you think are hardest for families in your community to overcome?
• Thinking about your family many generations from now, and knowing that others may hear this recording, is there anything you want to say to them about family or about Parents as Teachers or about being a parent?

Parents as Teachers promotes the optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.