



Parents as Teachers

Parent educators use the four Parents as Teachers model components to strengthen families and promote positive parent-child interaction so children are healthy, safe and ready to learn. To achieve these goals for children, Parents as Teachers training and curricula will support parent educators as they develop and hone their professional practice skills and as they develop competencies in five core content areas:

I. Family Support and Parenting Education: Parent educators practice a strength-based family support and parenting education approach to support the growth of parents' capacities through research-based methods and principles.

II . Child and Family Development: Parent educators are knowledgeable about child and parent development, and are skilled in fostering positive parent-child interactions.

III . Human Diversity within Family Systems: Parent educators demonstrate respect for diverse needs and characteristics of families and understand the influence of varied family systems, culture, and socioeconomic status in child rearing practices and school readiness.

IV. Health, Safety and Nutrition: Parent educators assist parents in establishing healthy and safe environments and parenting practices that promote the optimal development of children.

V. Relationships between Families and Communities: Parent educators strengthen families by building partnerships, connecting parents to supports, and fostering parent engagement and leadership in schools and other community organizations.

Implementing a high quality Parents as Teachers model includes well-trained and competent parent educators, responsive supervisors, and well-developed program practices.

Strong programs engage in continuous quality improvement when:

- staff use the Parents as Teachers Quality Assurance Guidelines as a blueprint for quality implementation of the model
- supervisors provide parent educators with the resources and support they need to optimally serve families
- parent educators commit to the development and refinement of knowledge, skills, and evidence-based practices that meet or exceed Parents as Teachers' quality standards



Kansas Parent Educators: Potential parent educators have the following qualifications: Demonstrated ability working with young children and their parents, along with either a 4 year degree from an accredited institute of higher education in early childhood education or a related field, a 2 year degree from an accredited institute of higher education in early childhood education or in a related field, or a minimum of 60 credit hours in early childhood education or a related field

Kansas PAT Supervisors: For the supervisor, a college degree or beyond in early childhood education, elementary education, behavioral or social sciences or a related field is recommended.