



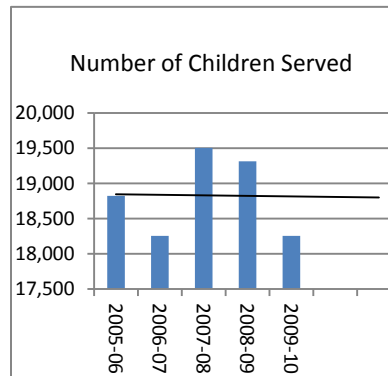
In 1990, Kansas made a wise first investment in families with children prenatal to age 3. Since then, more than 200,000 Kansas children have benefited from Kansas Parents as Teachers!

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is designed to give children the best possible start in life. The Kansas Parents as Teachers program promotes positive parenting and optimal child development, serving eligible families with children prenatal to age 3, with priority given to first time parents, teen parents, and families with at-risk indicators such as low income, single parent and foster or adoptive families.

Using evidence-based curriculum, parents are provided with the skills and knowledge they need to help them make the best decisions regarding their child's education through:

- Regular personal visits
- Group meetings
- Monitoring of their child's progress
- Connection with community resources

In 2009-10, Kansas PAT provided parent education to nearly 15,000 families benefiting more than 18,500 children prenatal to age three. While state funds have been level over the last five years, school district funding has declined resulting in fewer families served.



Local programs maintain a waiting list of more 2,500 families wanting to access Kansas Parents as Teachers.

Kansas PAT ensures high quality service delivery meeting national and state standards. Based on *Kansas School Readiness Data*, children whose families participated in Kansas PAT:

- Are more likely to have parents who read to them daily resulting in higher scores at Kindergarten, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Score higher in symbolic development, math concepts, written language and oral communication.
- Are more likely to be identified at an earlier age if there are health or developmental concerns resulting in referral to school and community services for early intervention.
- Have a lower Body Mass Index (BMI) at Kindergarten entry and are more likely to be fully immunized at age 2.



Kansas PAT is a valued partner with other home visiting programs and is a highly cost effective program. Kansas Healthy Families America and many Early Head Start programs blend the Parents as Teachers model with their program because they know PAT works.

In 2009-10, more than 57% of the Kansas PAT families served had one or more identified risk factors including:

- 4,637 eligible for free or reduced lunch
- 2,467 single head of households
- 1,010 families involved with the mental health or social services system
- 1,006 teen parents
- 733 low birth weight babies
- 513 families who are active duty military
- 88 Reserve or National Guard families
- 379 families with relatives as the primary caregiver
- 266 foster/adoptive families
- 231 transient or homeless families
- 194 families involved with the corrections system
- Parents as Teachers reaches less than 15% of the eligible children in Kansas.

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