

 **School Readiness****Parents as Teachers: Ready for School, Ready for Life**

Children's development from the earliest years lays the foundation for what follows. In the U.S., six out of ten kids show up to kindergarten unprepared to learn.¹ As their child's first and most important teacher, parents play a crucial role in supporting school readiness. Communities need a proven intervention that better supports parents in promoting their child's health, early development, and learning.

Parents as Teachers helps prepare children for kindergarten and beyond:

- Children score higher on measures of achievement,² language ability,³ social development⁴ and other cognitive abilities.⁴
- Children also significantly increased their scores from pre- to post-test in every domain (colors, letters, numbers/counting, sizes, and shapes).⁵
- Combined with preschool, Parents as Teachers (PAT) reduces the achievement gap between low-income and more advantaged children at kindergarten entry.⁶
- Programs saw a decrease in the number of children falling in delayed categories in school readiness proficiency.⁷
- Teachers rated children enrolled in Parents as Teachers significantly higher in multiple developmental areas including emotional wellbeing, fine motor, expressive language, receptive language and social competence than their non-PAT counterparts.⁸
- Children achieve school success into the elementary grades.^{7,9}
- Parents are more engaged in literacy activities at home³ and in their child's future.⁹
- Children enrolled in PAT achieved higher reading and math standardized test scores than those not receiving PAT.⁹

 **Greater Nanticoke Area Family Center**

Christine Ferrato, Director of the Greater Nanticoke Area Family Center, receives referrals from rural parents who want their children to go to preschool, but who live too far from the school bus route. For some families, Parents as Teachers is the only early childhood program available in their area. "We go straight to the family's home, which is good for families with transportation barriers," says Christine. Christine worked with one family who has a four-year-old little girl. Mom and dad were worried about their daughter being ready for kindergarten. Christine began visiting the family twice a month and worked with mom and dad on their daughter's language and social-emotional development. "The parents were committed. They practiced all the activities that I shared with them during visits. They became more confident parents and their daughter excelled," says Christine.





Quick Facts

- Parents as Teachers is aligned with State Early Learning Standards.
<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/resource/state-early-learning-standards-and-guidelines>
- Home visiting is an allowable use of ESSA, Title I and Title II federal funds for family engagement.
<https://parentsasteachers.org/s/07-11-16-ESSA-Home-Visiting-Brief.pdf>
- At this time, close to 700 school districts in 33 states and 43 Bureau of Indian Education schools implement the Parents as Teachers model with federal, state, or local funds.
- A 2016 policy statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics calls on pediatricians to work with families and the community to promote healthy brain development and socio-emotional skills that provide the basis for learning.
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/3/e20162293>
- Community-based agencies such as early childhood providers, school districts, health departments, and other non-profit organizations that support children and families are critical in fostering the conditions and experiences needed to ensure that all children reach school ready to learn. A majority of Parents as Teachers programs operate within community-based organizations.

References

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- ⁷ CDC. First reports evaluating the effectiveness of strategies for preventing violence: early childhood home visitation: Findings from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services. www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a1.htm MMWR 2003;52(RR-14):1-9.

