

# Parents as Teachers

An evidenced-based , universal access home visitation model for any pregnant family or family with children that are too young for Kindergarten enrollment



# VISION Statement

- All children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential.

# MISSION statement

- To provide the information, support, and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

# CORE VALUES

- Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.
- The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.
- Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials, and services.
- All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic, or economic considerations.
- An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures are essential in serving families.

# GOALS of PAT

- **Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices.**
- **Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues.**
- **Prevent child abuse and neglect.**
- **Increase children's school readiness and school success.**

# Outcomes: child development & child-rearing practices

- ❖ PAT parents are more knowledgeable about child development and child-rearing practices.
- ❖ PAT parents engage in more language- and literacy-promoting behaviors with their children.
- ❖ PAT parents are more involved in their children's schooling.

# Outcomes: early detection of delays and health issues

- ❖ PAT children receive developmental screenings and have delays identified early.
- ❖ PAT children are healthier.

# Outcomes: prevent child abuse and neglect

- ❖ PAT parents are more knowledgeable about discipline, show more positive involvement with children, and organize their home environment more appropriately.
- ❖ PAT families have fewer documented cases of abuse and neglect.

# Outcomes: children's school readiness and school success

- ❖ PAT children are more advanced than comparison children in language, problem-solving and other cognitive abilities, and social development.
- ❖ PAT children score higher on kindergarten readiness tests and on standardized measures of reading, math, and language in the elementary grades.

# PAT Service Components

- ❖ Personal Visits
- ❖ Group Meetings
- ❖ Screening
- ❖ Resource Network

# PERSONAL VISITS

- **Share age-appropriate information with parents.**
  - Born To Learn curriculum
    - Trimester information for prenatal families
    - Month-by month lesson plans from birth until age 3
    - Activity-oriented lesson plans from age 3 until Kindergarten enrollment
  - Born To Learn handouts
    - "Your Baby....." with fewer words and simpler language.
    - "Your Child....." with more words and more detailed information

# PERSONAL VISITS

- **Help parents learn to observe their child**
  - Focus on developmental domains
    - Language
    - Intellectual
    - Social-emotional
    - Gross/fine motor

# PERSONAL VISITS

- **Address parents' parenting concerns**
  - Born To Learn curriculum
  - Born To Learn handouts
  - Focus on developmental domains
    - Tie parenting concerns to developmental stage of child
    - Provide anticipatory guidance regarding developmental stages for child

# PERSONAL VISITS

- **Engage the family in meaningful parent-child interactions**
  - Parent-child interaction activities
  - Follow-up activities
    - Utilization of common household items for activities
    - Activities are made during visit or pre-made
  - Reading a book together

# GROUP MEETINGS

- **Provide opportunities to share information about parenting issues and child development.**
- **Parents learn from and support each others, observe their children with other children, and practice parenting skills.**
- **Parents develop relationships with other parents.**

# SCREENINGS

- Developmental screenings
- Family Functioning
- Health screening
  - Vision
  - Hearing

# RESOURCE NETWORK

- Help families identify and connect with needed resources.
  - Assessment of parental life skills, parenting abilities, and child's development.
  - Issues identified by the parent

# Yavapai PAT PERSONAL VISITS

- One FTE Parent Educator
  - Certified PAT Parent Educator
  - Receives supervision from dually-certified PAT Parent Educator and PAT Supervisor
  - Receives monthly supervision with other AzCA home visitors (Bright Start programs in Yavapai and in Mohave/La Paz counties).

# Yavapai PAT PERSONAL VISITS

- Verde Valley catchment area
  - Clarkdale
  - Cottonwood
  - Camp Verde
  - Cornville
  - Rimrock
  - Sedona
  - Village of Oak Creek

# Yavapai PAT PERSONAL VISITS

- 22 PAT families with 26 children
  - Disenrollment reasons: all have moved away except one referred to CPS and one who was already involved with Verde Valley Family Partnership
  - Extremely low rate of no-shows: 15 in 17 months of PAT

# Yavapai PAT GROUP MEETINGS

## 3 per month

- Open to the public at Cottonwood Public Library
  - Curriculum from AZ Parent Kit
- Open to the families of PAT and Verde Valley Family Partnership once per month
- "Brain Time" - open to the public at Cottonwood Public Library twice per month
  - Curriculum from New Directions Institute

# Yavapai PAT SCREENINGS

- Evidence-based tool: Ages and Stages Questionnaire and ASQ-SE.
- Evidence-based tool: Life Skills Progression Tool.
- Screening/evaluation from medical professional
- Medical history
- cursory screenings for vision and hearing

# Yavapai PAT RESOURCE NETWORK

- Use of community resources
- Families have received services and items through AzCA's connections
  - Child Haven
  - FTF Diaper Drive
  - Donations to AzCA
  - Money for families from Prescott Charities

# “THE RIPPLE EFFECT” – building the early childhood system in Arizona

- AZ PAT State System Office and State Leader designation. – a first for Arizona!!

# BARRIERS

- Original RFGA proposed countywide, 3 Parent Educator program.
  - It is difficult for one person to cover a large region.
- Uncertainty of the future of First Things First.
  - Agencies didn't want to refer their clients to a program that may end suddenly and soon.
- PAT is a program that families really enjoy and don't want to end their services.
  - Family numbers have not been as high as originally proposed because families don't leave the service.

# BENEFITS to Yavapai County

- ❖ Universal access – NO eligibility criteria!
- ❖ PAT is a popular program with families.
- ❖ Cost-effectiveness comparisons to other HV programs that provide a similar level of programming shows PAT (\$1,889/family) to be the most cost-effective model.
- ❖ Federal government recognition of PAT as an evidence-based program.
  - ❖ HRSA
  - ❖ ACF
  - ❖ US DoE
- ❖ PAT has brought national support and statewide attention to build the early childhood system in Arizona

# Looking ahead....

- ❖ PAT has the versatility and proven track record to be utilized in a variety of funding strategies.
  - Parent Education
  - Home Visitation
  - Parent Consultation
  - Early literacy
  - Health
- ❖ No state agency administers PAT so there is never an issue regarding supplanted funding.