When two year old, Benji (not his real name) started receiving home visits he was nonverbal. Since April, he has learned many words in both English and Nepali. He can sing the ABCs and other popular songs. In addition, he can identify some letters utilizing the Wilson Fundations language program that is used in the Scranton School District. He can also identify colors, shapes, animals and animal sounds.

In the process of learning through play, Benji began to teach his mom English. When she began the program, she suffered from severe depression and other physical and mental ailments. She had difficulty getting out of bed. She was worried about her son’s success and ability to learn.

As time passed, mom became excited to be part of her son’s learning. Now she is thrilled with the program and extremely proud of his accomplishments. They both eagerly await the parent educator, Nicole’s arrival each week. “Mom is actively engaged in the visits and celebrates his accomplishments. They are teaching each other and it is beautiful to watch and be part of the process. I am so proud of this family and honored to be a part of the process,” says Nicole.

By Carlene Nicholas, Program Manager, Outreach

PAT Group Connections

Many parents are very busy in today’s fast-paced society. It is important for parents to build social connections and meet other families. Parents as Teachers group connections help parents build social connections and establish positive relationships that provide emotional, spiritual, informational and instrumental support.

PAT group connections are planned events – parents participate in the planning of group connections to increase active involvement – that provide opportunities for parents to share information, learn parenting skills and discuss parenting issues. The PAT model offers 12 group connections per program year with hands-on learning activities. Parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting and family well-being are the key elements of these group connections. Although the lessons are PAT specific, other providers (and PAT) may create their own agenda for group connections.

Healthy Lifestyles, When You Are Stressed Out (lesson week 3), emphasizes family well-being and helps parents understand the effects of stress and to manage stress in healthy ways. It also helps parents implement the parental resilience protective factor identified in the Strengthening Families Framework.

Healthy Lifestyles, Keeping Healthy Throughout Life (lesson week 4), emphasizes development-centered parenting and promotes the knowledge of parenting and child development protective factor. The lesson increases parents’ understanding of their role in their child’s development.

The opportunity for parents to be a part of a group connection is empowering for families, it can play an important role in building parents’ involvement in their child’s health, development and education. Ultimately, group connections help build strong families and children, who are healthy, safe and ready to learn. Parent Cafés are one of the various
Group connections, offered by parent educators, are usually at a time and location that is convenient for families, including non-PAT families. To make it even easier for families to attend, childcare is available. Parent educators provide resources and information to the parents at the group connections to extend their learning beyond.

**Engage In: Compassion Part 2**

Listen to this Intentional Partnerships Podcast from October 17, an on-the-ground perspective from real people exploring their shared values around family engagement.

Do you have strong family partnerships? Do you want to share your perspective in a podcast? Contact Lindsay Fondow.

**Parents as Teachers National Webinar Series – Data Driven Practice**

This webinar series is designed to help affiliates achieve model fidelity and to share how data can inform the work they do with families. The series is available to state offices, implementation support providers, Parents as Teachers affiliate supervisors and staff, and early childhood home-visiting stakeholders.

Upcoming webinars – Fridays at 2:30 p.m.
- November 16, 2018
- February 15, 2019
- May 17, 2019

Register for the upcoming webinars
Register to view the August webinar

**Putting Families First – Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) 4th Virtual Convening**

BPNN members and keynote speakers will share new ideas and strategies that focus on putting families first.

Tuesday, November 27, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Tuesday, December 4, 1:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

More about Putting Families First

BPNN is an initiative of the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds.

**Family Support**

OCDEL’s Home Visiting and Family Support department reached out to recently opened Early Learning Resources Centers (ELRC) strongly encouraging them to work with the home visiting and family support programs. The Pennsylvania PAT state office communicated with the ELRCs about PAT affiliates and Children’s Trust Fund grantees throughout the state. If you have not met with the representative in your area yet, reach out to do so.

**Using Penelope? Need Help?**

Penelope Q&A sessions are available upon request for all PAT Affiliate programs in Pennsylvania. Contact Wenda Deardorff for more information or to schedule a session.
Safe Kids Corner

Fall Prevention for Little Kids

Does it seem like your little one is always on the go? That is just the way it should be. While we cannot help you grow an extra set of hands, we can help you make sure the area around your child is safer. We do not sweat the bumps and bruises, but we can work together to help avoid serious injuries.

Top Safety Tips

• For your crawlers and climbers, move chairs, cribs and other furniture away from windows to help prevent window falls.
• Secure TVs and furniture to the wall using mounts, brackets, braces, anchors or wall straps to prevent tip-overs.
• Actively supervise toddlers on stairs; hold their hands when walking up and down stairs.
• Screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in. Properly install window guards to prevent unintentional window falls. For windows above the first floor, include an emergency release device in case of fire.
• Use approved safety gates at the tops and bottoms of stairs and attach them to the wall if possible. Remember to read the manufacturer’s instructions and warning labels to make sure you have the right gate for your needs. Not all gates are safe for use at the top of stairs.
• Keep windows locked and closed when they are not being used.
• Take your kids to playgrounds with shock-absorbing surfaces such as rubber, synthetic turf, sand, pea gravel, wood chips or mulch. If your child falls, the landing will be more cushioned than on asphalt, concrete, grass or dirt.
• Use a harness or safety belt if you are placing your child in a shopping cart seat. If the belt is missing or broken, select another cart.

Retrieved from Safe Kids Worldwide.
From Family Support NewsBrief
Readers

Tell us about:
• How you maintained such great retention of families in your program
• Fund development activities that yielded the best results
• How a Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) cycle informed your work
• Who you work with in the community and what you have done together

• An event or how you reached a program goal
• How you reduced a barrier to service or worked collaboratively in the community

Send your articles to Wenda Deardorff.*

* Center for Schools and Communities reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of the information.

Family Support Webinars
First Wednesday of the month
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Nov 7, Engaging Parents – Linguistic and Cultural Strengths as Resources in Language and Literacy Learning

Parents as Teachers

Until one month prior to the event, registration will only be open to Pennsylvania participants. If you have a new hire in the month before the event, contact Wenda Deardorff.

PAT Foundational & Model Implementation
For new supervisors/parent educators of affiliate programs
Jan 14-18, 2019, Camp Hill, Pa.

PAT Foundational
For new curriculum subscribers
Jan 14-16, 2019, Camp Hill, Pa.

PA Foundational 2: 3 Years through Kindergarten
Dec 3-4, Camp Hill, Pa.

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children’s Trust Fund grantees and the Strengthening Families leadership team.

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Children’s Trust Fund and Strengthening Families

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Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers at Center for Schools and Communities.

Children’s Trust Fund
Strengthening Families