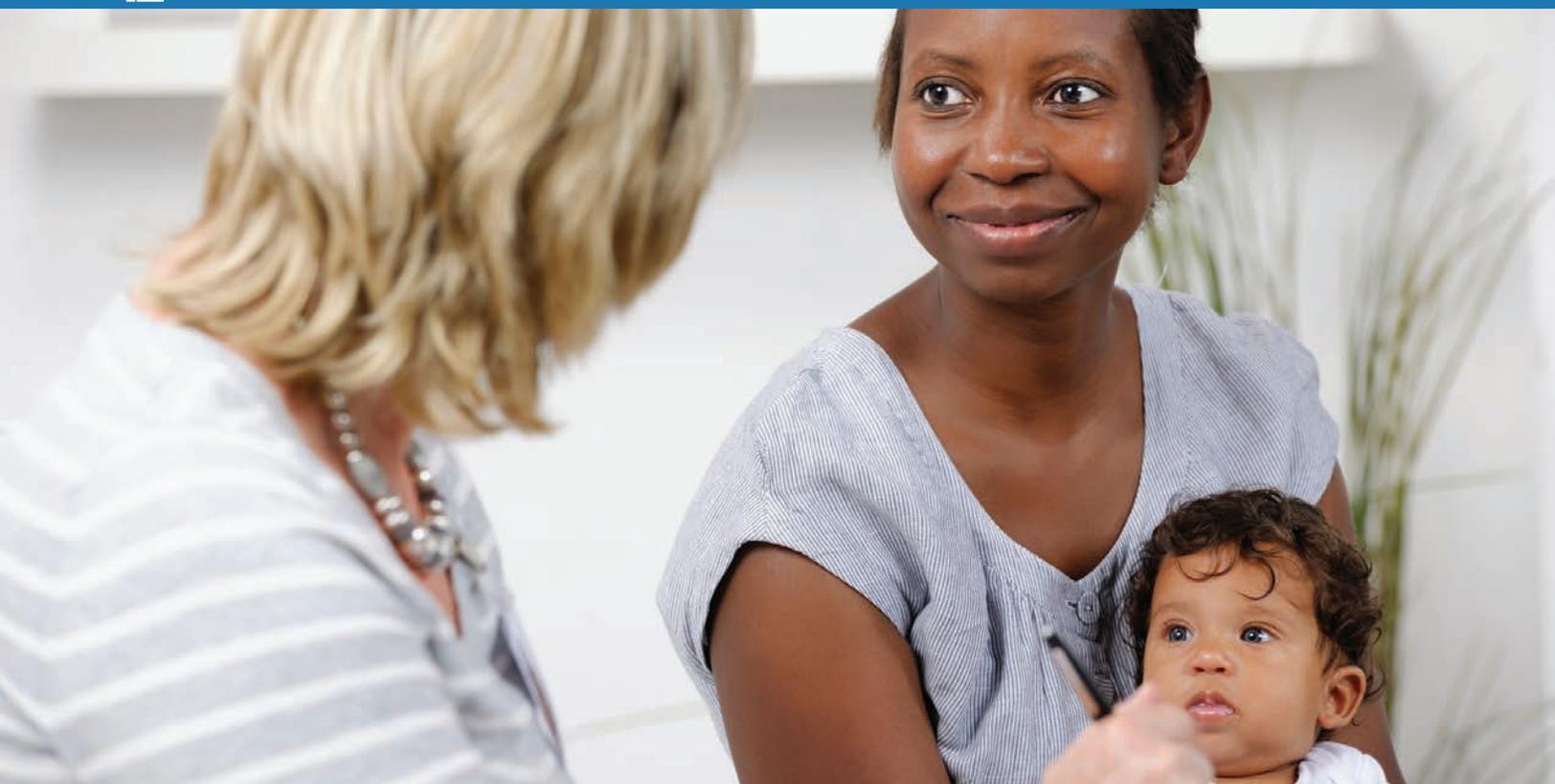


Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of

 CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



Community Resources

Family support professionals support parents and caregivers by providing community resources. Often, home visitors establish and maintain a positive, strong, trustworthy relationship with parents and caregivers prior to offering community resources. A positive relationship with the parent and/or caregiver helps parents be more engaged in the goal-setting process. Some professionals found that when parents are more engaged in the goal-setting process, the parents are more likely to pursue and utilize the community resources offered.

Many family support professionals use a strength-based approach in communicating with families. The strength-based approach helps family support professionals motivate and

empower families to identify their own needs and strengths, and establish S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely) goals. Family support professionals should also engage the parents and caregivers in the community resource planning and selection process.

Effectively communicating with a family is an integral part of providing community resources to families. Family support professionals should be culturally and linguistically responsive when communicating to parents and caregivers in order to learn and reflect on the families' diverse priorities, needs, strengths and experiences. Family support professionals should ask questions of the families, and actively listen to the priorities of the families. As family support professionals collect

information about the family, they can assess and discuss the combined skills, strengths, stressors of the families. Family support professionals can make more informed referrals and offer targeted community resources as they learn more about a family.

Parental engagement is another important aspect in providing community resources to families. Family support professionals should provide opportunities for parents to engage in the planning process. Many parents are more interested in the community resources when they are engaged in the process. Engaging the parents or caregivers also allows family support professionals to learn about the parents' perspective of community

continued on page 2

resources and services. As a result, family support professionals are more aware of the barriers and challenges facing the families.

Prior to offering a family a community resource, family support professionals should learn more about the community and the community resources available to families. Family support professionals often establish and build a partnership with the community resource agencies by calling, emailing and/or visiting the community resource organizations prior to offering the community resource to a family. A good partnership helps the family support professional properly inform the parent about the community resources. The family support professionals may host an open house or an informational event for the parents, and have representatives from the community organizations attend the event.

It is best for the family support professional and the parent to discuss, decide, and begin with one or two community resources rather than selecting many community resources at once. The parent may feel overwhelmed or challenged, if there is a multitude of community resources offered at once. A parent may delay or may not want to contact the community resource, if too many community resources are offered. If the parents are not comfortable pursuing a community resource agency on their own, the home visitor could do a warm referral. It is crucial for the family support professional to follow-up and check in with the parents. This ensures that the parents followed through with the community resources, and provides an opportunity for the parents to give feedback on their experience. Providing relevant community resources to parents and caregivers offers families the opportunity to grow and thrive.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each April, Child Abuse Prevention Month is commemorated across the United States. Here in Pennsylvania, be sure to explore the [Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance's](#) website to find out about the various events they have scheduled in April to promote prevention. Additional resources to plan your own events to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month can be found on [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#), including the downloadable Prevention Resource Guide.



RESOURCES & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals

The Institute offers family support professionals everywhere the opportunity to learn new skills and grow their careers. Through engaging, online modules and a personalized learning map feature, professionals take charge of their growth and advancement. [Information and online courses](#) are available at no cost.

Keystone Scholars Program

Babies born in Pennsylvania in 2019, as well as those born in Delaware, Elk, Indiana, Luzerne, Mifflin, or Westmoreland Counties in 2018, are eligible to receive \$100 from the Pennsylvania Treasury. The money is for costs related to post-secondary education. [Learn more.](#)

Essential Communication Skills

United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey is offering this free course to home visiting programs in southeast PA. The course will take place every other Wednesday afternoon March 20-July 10, 2019. [Register for Communication Skills](#)

Family Support

2019 Strengthening Families Conference – PAT and CTF
April 30 – May 2, State College, Pa.

Family Support Webinars

First Wednesday of the month
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**NO MAY WEBINAR
DUE TO CONFERENCE**

TBA – June 5

Please register for Parents as Teachers course through the Learning Catalog in [O.L.I.V.E.R.](#)

Parents as Teachers

PAT Advocacy Webinars

Interested in evidence-based home visiting and want to learn more about the policy climate and advocacy efforts? Join PAT National Center's advocacy webinars.

The 2018 Home Visiting Yearbook

Wednesday, April 24
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness: Supporting Young Parents and Their Children

Wednesday, July 24
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET

Webinar questions? Contact [Lisa Foehner](#), director of advocacy.

Parents as Teachers cont.

Until one month prior to the event, registration will only be open to Pennsylvania participants. If you have any questions regarding registration for PAT courses, please contact [Jennifer Esposito](#)

PAT Foundational & Model Implementation

For new parent educators and supervisors of affiliate programs
June 3-7, Camp Hill, Pa
Aug 19 -23, Camp Hill, Pa

PAT Foundational & Foundational 2

Jul 29-Aug 2, Camp Hill, Pa

PAT Foundational

For new subscribers
Jun 3-5, Camp Hill, Pa
Jul 29-31, Camp Hill, Pa
Aug 19-21, Camp Hill, Pa

PA Foundational 2: 3 Years through Kindergarten

Jun 24-25, Camp Hill, Pa
Aug 1-2, Camp Hill, Pa

USING PENELOPE? NEED HELP?

Penelope Q & A sessions are available upon request for all PAT Affiliate programs in Pennsylvania. Contact [Alexia Brown](#) for more information or to schedule a session.



Parents as Teachers[™]



pennsylvania
OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT
AND EARLY LEARNING



PENNSYLVANIA
strengtheningfamilies



Pennsylvania
Children's Trust Fund

Family Support Team

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.

[Karen Shanoski](#)

Family Support and Community Engagement Director
(717) 763-1661, ext. 139

[Rijelle Kraft](#)

Family Support Managing Coordinator
(717) 763-166, ext. 221

[Alexia Brown](#)

Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 146

[Katherine Noss](#)

Family Support Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 104

[Jennifer Esposito](#)

Family Support Data Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 161

[Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers](#) at Center for Schools and Communities

[Children's Trust Fund Strengthening Families](#)

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities

275 Grandview Avenue
Suite 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-1661
www.center-school.org

Safe Kids Corner

Poison Prevention for Big Kids

Big kids may spend more time without active adult supervision. And that's a great way to help them develop and grow. Just make sure to prepare your bigger kids by talking to them about harmful substances that can cause more trouble than you think.

Top Safety Tips

1. Keep cleaning products in their original containers. Never put a potentially poisonous product in something other than its original container, such as a plastic soda bottle, where it could be mistaken for something else.
2. Safely throw away old medicines and other potential poisons. Check your garage, basement and other storage areas for cleaning and work supplies you no longer need and can discard.
3. Read product labels to find out what can be hazardous to kids. Dangerous household items include makeup, personal care products, plants, pesticides, lead, art supplies, alcohol and carbon monoxide.
4. Program the toll-free number for the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) into your home and cell phone and post it near your phone or on your refrigerator for the babysitter. Hopefully, you'll never need it, but it's nice to have just in case.



Retrieved from [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

