



*Don't forget*



**January 13th, 2026**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm**

**Bright Futures Program  
Meeting**

**[Register Here](#)**

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**Dear KPATA Members -**

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

— **Roald Dahl**

This quote reminds us that what we carry inside matters. Our intentions, our optimism, and our belief in the value of our work shape how we show up for one another and for the families we serve. In early childhood and home visiting, "good thoughts" are more than positive feelings—they are intentional actions, thoughtful conversations, and a deep commitment to seeing strengths first. When we lead with those values, the impact is visible. It shows up in trusting relationships, confident parents, and children who are supported during the most important years of their development.

January is a time of fresh energy and renewed purpose. As we look ahead, I encourage each of us to carry forward the good thoughts that fuel this work: belief in families, respect for one another, and confidence that what we do every day truly matters. Even during challenges, these thoughts can guide us, helping us respond with compassion, creativity, and resolve.

*Regards,*

**Hilary Koehn**

Hilary Koehn  
Executive Director



## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

### DIRECTOR

#### ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- WATCH FOR INFORMATION TO REGISTER FOR THE KPATA CONFERENCE ON APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>/30<sup>TH</sup> IN WICHITA

# BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESSES

## SUCCESS STORY

Mom was very engaged during the visit and described her relationship with her daughter as fun and stable. She actively participated in the activity, holding and soothing her child by singing and gently swaying when she became fussy, which helped calm her. Resources related to family well-being were discussed. Mom shared curiosity about what her baby may be thinking and expressed gratitude that the other parent is able to stay home and provide care. The other parent was also engaged, narrating activities and interacting with the baby throughout the visit.

- 12 NEW REFERRALS
- 73 ACTIVE REFERRALS
- 38 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS





# KPATA Conference 2026

*Registration details  
are coming soon...*

Save the  
**DATE**

KPATA Conference  
April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> - 2026  
Newman University - Wichita, KS

*Awesome  
NEWS*





# KPATA Trainings

**This Training is for KPATA Members**



## Promoting Protective Factors for Adult and Child Survivors of Domestic Violence



**Presented By:**

**Kristina Scott, LMSW**

**Child Welfare Project Coordinator**

**Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic  
Violence (KCSDV)**



During this virtual session, participants will learn the key protective factors that have been identified nationally to reduce the risk factors of domestic violence for adult and child survivors.

### Learning Objectives:

- Describe at least two (2) protective factors for adult and child survivors of domestic violence.
- Identify at least three (3) safety and protective actions adult survivors use to keep their children safe, to include in documentation.
- Identify at least three (3) behaviors those who have caused harm use, that impact child and family functioning, to include in documentation.
- Utilize the Domestic Violence Manual for Child Welfare Professionals to apply best practices when working with families experiencing domestic violence.

**JANUARY 15, 2026**

**10:00–11:30**

**REGISTER HERE**

You will register on KCSDV's website



# KPATA Trainings

Training for KPATA Members



## HOPE Training

(Healthy Outcomes from  
Positive Experiences)



Explore how everyday positive experiences can build resilience and support healthy development in children and families. This training introduces the core ideas behind the HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) framework and shows how simple, strengths-focused practices can make a meaningful difference during home visits and family interactions. Participants will learn how to identify existing strengths, nurture protective factors, and reinforce what's going well in the lives of the families they serve. You'll leave with practical tools, real-world examples, and encouragement to integrate HOPE into your day-to-day work with confidence and clarity.

***Presented By: Dana Book  
KCSL Training Specialist***



Kansas Children's Service League  
Stronger families start here.



**February 19th**

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**REGISTER HERE**





2025-2026

# KPATA Training Calendar

## Remember!

A KPATA  
Membership is  
required in  
order to attend  
our trainings.

You can  
purchase your  
2025-2026  
Membership  
(Training Pass)  
below!

[Register](#)

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

PARENT EDUCATORS AND COORDINATORS  
KPATA BRIGHT FUTURES 2025-2026

| JULY   | AUGUST  | SEPTEMBER  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Share &amp; Show Our Favorites</b><br>Book, activity enhancement, resource, song or fingerplay<br>7/17 1:00-2:30 PM | <b>CONVERSATIONS KS Communities</b><br>8/21 1:00-2:00 PM                                      | <b>PAT Engage Starting at Square 1</b><br>9/19 1:00-2:30 PM  |
| OCTOBER  | NOVEMBER  | DECEMBER   |
| <b>Understanding NEURODIVERSITY</b><br>SARAH JONES/KCCTO<br>10/3 1:00-2:30 PM  | <b>Motivational Interviewing Refresher</b><br>Scott Kerby<br>11/14 1:00-2:30 PM               | <b>CATCH UP</b>  |
| JANUARY  | FEBRUARY  | MARCH  |
| <b>Intimate Partner Violence</b><br>survivor-informed insights<br>Kristina Scott-KCSDV<br>1/15 10:00-11:30 AM          | <b>HOPE TRAINING</b><br>Dana Book/KCSL<br>2/19 1:00-3:00 PM                                   | <b>MATERNAL DEPRESSION</b><br>Robert Ammerman/CCHMC<br>MOVING BEYOND DEPRESSION TRAINING<br>3/27 1:00-2:00 PM                      |
| APRIL  | MAY   | OTHER NOTES:   |
| <b>Child Abuse and Neglect</b><br>Valeria Adame/KCSL<br>4/9 1:00-2:30 PM   | <b>Vaping Products and Treatment Resources</b><br>Matthew Schrock/KANQUIT<br>5/7 1:00-2:00 PM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Please use Dec. to catch up on a recorded training</li><li>* No Training in June</li></ul> |

★ INDICATES A PATNC QUALITY STANDARD TRAINING REQUIREMENT

kpata  
KANSAS PARENTS OF TEENAGERS

# Advocacy Lunch & Learn

KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS VIRTUAL

## Lunch & Learn

*Pack your lunch and join us for a conversation  
with the KPATA Advocacy Committee about:*

*Advocacy Tips*

*&*

*Preparing for Home Visiting Program*

*Advocacy Day on March 4th*



**Lunch  
Break**

*January 29th*

12:00 - 1:00

REGISTER IN ADVANCE BY CLICKING

THE LINK BELOW:

[ZOOM REGISTRATION](#)





# Bright Futures Program Meeting

# Register Now!

**BRIGHT FUTURES  
PROGRAM MEETING**

**JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**1:00PM - 2:30PM**

*Register Here*



# Save the Date!

## Dr. Ross Greene

When it comes time to register, you will need an account in Cape. You can set that up in advance you'd like to at this link: [Registration](#) | [Cape Portal](#)

A Premier Professional Development Opportunity

# SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a powerful day of learning with Dr. Ross Greene, renowned expert, practitioner, and author of *The Explosive Child* and other influential books for families and educators. Discover practical, collaborative strategies to better understand and support children—and the adults who care for them—when social, emotional, or behavioral challenges arise.

 **April 17, 2026**  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

 **Manhattan, KS**  
K-State Alumni Center

*Stay Informed*  
**More Details Coming Soon!**



[www.kccto.org/dr-ross-greene](http://www.kccto.org/dr-ross-greene)



**Dr. Ross W. Greene**  
*Psychologist & Author*

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Education KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Health and Human Sciences KCCTO Kansas CHILD CARE IN KANSAS Program Funding Partner



# Just 10 Minutes



Fill out our form  
to share your  
ideas with us!



**Submit your idea**



**AT JUST 10 MINUTES, WE BELIEVE EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO FEEL DEEPLY CONNECTED TO THEIR FAMILY. SMALL MOMENTS OF UNDISTRACTED INTERACTION CAN MAKE A POWERFUL IMPACT ON A CHILD'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING, BRAIN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SKILLS.**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS OF FUN FAMILY-FRIENDLY AND SCREEN-FREE ACTIVITIES A CHILD CAN ENJOY WITH THEIR FAMILY IN "JUST TEN MINUTES!"! FILL OUT OUR FORM BELOW TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!**



# Days at the Capitol

EARLY LEARNING ADVOCACY  
DAY AT THE KANSAS  
STATE CAPITOL

**FEB.  
25TH  
2026**

HOME VISITING PROGRAM  
ADVOCACY DAY AT THE  
KANSAS CAPITOL

**MAR.  
4TH  
2026**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATES**







## PAT ACROSS KANSAS SUCCESS STORIES



Soon after starting with Parents as Teachers, our family's Parent Educator gave the ASQ screening and found that my 6 month old daughter was behind in her gross motor development.

Our Parent Educator connected us with ITS. Once we started with ITS, I felt so relieved to be helping my daughter! Our pediatrician had not yet caught the delay.

While at our next well child check up, our pediatrician suggested we reach out to ITS and Parents as Teachers. It felt so good to be able to let our pediatrician know that I had already contacted ITS and started services with Parents as Teachers. My daughter has made great progress with her gross motor skills and is now walking!

Our Parent Educator continues to support me in my parenting and helps me navigate how to best practice developmental skills with my daughters. We always look forward to her visits!







## PAT ACROSS KANSAS GROUP CONNECTIONS

### **GARDNER-EDGERTON**

Gardner Edgerton PAT invited families and community members to attend a Social-Emotional themed group connection in celebration of the program's recent Blue Ribbon Affiliate award.

Families had the opportunity to play together in a variety of "blue" activities. Posted prompts around the room provided ideas on how parents could support social-emotional development through sensory experiences, pretend play, drip painting, and other joint-attention play.

Members of the advisory board and school district enjoyed seeing a group connection in action. Participants traced and added their hands to a bulletin board to display all who have "a hand" in creating an exceptional program. Families left with a "social-emotional kit" filled with age specific activities





# SUPPORTING CARE PROVIDERS



## Calling Johnson and Wyandotte County FFN Care Providers!



We are currently enrolling FFN care providers in Johnson and Wyandotte County communities! If you know someone providing Family, Friend, and Neighbor care for children birth to five who would like more information on program enrollment, please reach out to Maria at [mrrios@kpata.org](mailto:mrrios@kpata.org) or call/text 913-731-4834.





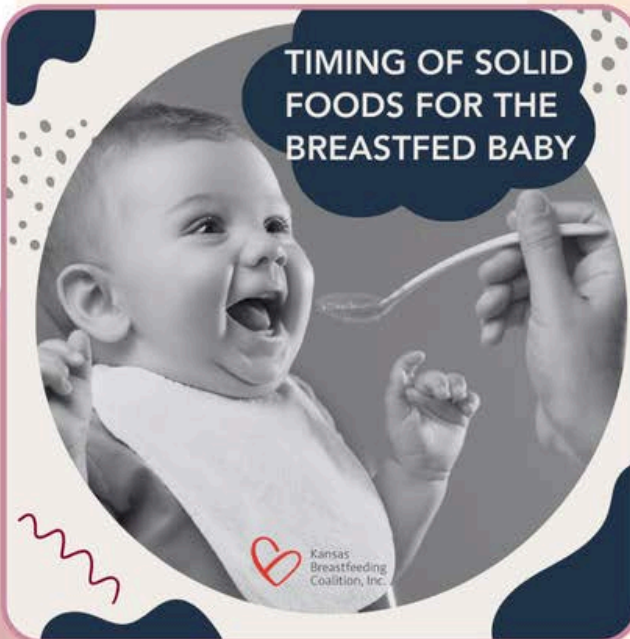
# Breastfeeding Message of the Month

## THE TIMING OF SOLID FOODS FOR THE BREASTFED INFANT



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS (AAP) GUIDANCE CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING FOR SIX MONTHS, WITH COMPLEMENTARY FOODS INTRODUCED AROUND SIX MONTHS. UNDER THE NEW POLICY, THE AAP NOW SUPPORTS CONTINUED BREASTFEEDING UNTIL TWO YEARS OR BEYOND, AS MUTUALLY DESIRED BY MOTHER AND CHILD. BRING THIS POLICY IN LINE WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. BREAST MILK IS NUTRITIONALLY COMPLETE AND WILL MEET ALL OF BABY'S NEEDS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LIFE. FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNS OF READINESS WATCH THIS [VIDEO](#) FROM THE AAP.

### TIMING OF SOLID FOODS FOR THE BREASTFED BABY



RESPONSIVE FEEDING CAN BE DONE WITH BOTTLE FEEDING AND SOLID FEEDING. BEING AWARE OF BOTH HUNGER AND FULLNESS CUES CAN ENSURE BABY IS REGULATING THEMSELVES AND IS NOT BEING OVERFED. YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ON RESPONSIVE FEEDING [HERE](#) AND ON PACED BOTTLE FEEDING [HERE](#).



Kansas  
Breastfeeding  
Coalition, Inc.

what have we been up to?

Did  
YOU KNOW?



Did you know that two of our KPATA staff members are serving on the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel? Jenny Smith and Becky Stewart are representing KPATA and wanted to share why this work is meaningful to KPATA and its members:

“Serving on the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel gives me the opportunity to connect and learn about resources and events happening in Kansas that support Kansas families. I'm serving on the Early Childhood Mental Health Support Group and we are working together to pull together different EC mental health training and resources and locate them in one centralized place. We do talk about Home Visiting and especially PAT a lot. We are also currently discussing what we do and creative ways to share so that more people know about the amazing work you all do! - Jenny”

“Serving on this panel lets me bring the real stories of our Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) child care providers directly to state leaders to ensure our members' voices drive real change. - Becky”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

- 13<sup>TH</sup> - BF PROGRAM MEETING
- 15<sup>ST</sup> - IPV TRAINING
- 16<sup>TH</sup> - KPATA BOARD MEETING

### FEBRUARY

- 19<sup>TH</sup> - HOPE TRAINING
- 20<sup>TH</sup> - KPATA BOARD MEETING

