



**Early Learning
Advocacy Day
February 25th**

**Home Visiting
Advocacy Day
March 4th**

Details inside...

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Executive Director Letter	2
Bright Futures Successes	3
KPATA Conference	4-5
KPATA Trainings	6-10
Days at the Capitol	11-13
KPATA All Members Meeting	14
KPATA Board Application	15
Supporting Care Providers	16-17
Dr. Ross Greene	18
Breastfeeding Message	19
Did you know / Upcoming events	20



Dear KPATA Members,

As we begin the month of February, I find myself thinking about the strength of our shared work and the relationships that make it possible.

Across Kansas, home visiting continues to show us what happens when families are met with consistency, trust, and support—and that impact is something worth both celebrating and building upon. I'm reminded of a quote that feels especially fitting right now:

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

- Abraham Lincoln.

This perfectly captures what I see every day in PAT home visiting across Kansas. The relationships built between families and professionals, the trust developed over time, and the steady presence of support all remind us that meaningful change doesn't happen by chance—it happens through connection.

I am especially excited about the future of home visiting and the solid groundwork underway for the Office of Early Childhood in Kansas. This moment brings tremendous opportunity: to strengthen alignment, elevate the voices of families and providers, and ensure that early childhood systems are responsive, collaborative, and built to last. I look forward to what we will continue to build together as we shape a strong, connected future for home visiting and early childhood in Kansas.

Warm Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director



FEBRUARY
february
FEBRUARY



A NOTE FROM THE

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- JOIN US FOR HOME VISITING PROGRAM ADVOCACY DAY ON MARCH 4TH
- REGISTER TO ATTEND THE KPATA CONFERENCE: BACK TO THE FUTURE

BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESSES

SUCCESS STORY

This family has come so far since beginning the program. One parent is no longer involved, and mom is now successfully balancing two jobs, caring for her children, and maintaining a household. While she still encounters occasional challenges, she has gained confidence in herself and her ability to work through difficult moments, knowing they will not last forever.

Mom now sees a bright future for her family and can openly talk about the goals she has for herself and her children. Our program plans to continue supporting this family until the youngest child turns three in June 2027. Mom enjoys her visits with the parent educator and is grateful to continue receiving services beyond the Bright Futures requirements. The parent educator has truly enjoyed working with this family and watching mom grow into the confident young parent she has become.

- 11 NEW REFERRALS
- 72 ACTIVE REFERRALS
- 38 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



KPATA Conference 2026

2026 KPATA CONFERENCE:
BACK TO THE FUTURE
APRIL 29TH & 30TH
WICHITA, KS - NEWMAN UNIVERSITY



Learning Session selection form will be sent in March!

"Where We're Going, Families Come First"
Home visiting has long been a driving force in strengthening families, supporting early learning, and building thriving communities. This conference brings home visitors, program leaders, and partners together to explore the past, present, and future of the work—honoring our roots, reflecting on today's realities, and looking ahead to what's possible. Participants will leave energized, equipped, and inspired to advance a more seamless, family-centered home visiting future for Kansas!

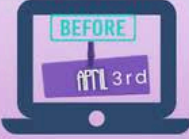
**The Power of Home Visiting:
Past, Present, Future**



LICENSE TO LEARN

SPECIAL CONFERENCE OPENING TIME TRAVEL NETWORKING SAMPLER


REGISTRATION
[Click Here](#)



IN-PERSON ONLY



April 29th - 30th, 2026
4/29 1:00 pm - 4:45 pm
4/30 8:15 am - 12:30 pm
Newman University - Dugan Gorges Conference Center
3100 W McCormick Wichita KS 67213



CONFERENCE COST
Members
\$100 in - person
Non-Members
\$140 in-person
(Includes in - person conference, lunch (30th), and access to the resource drive following the conference)

KPATA Conference 2026

2026 KPATA CONFERENCE: BACK TO THE FUTURE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

APRIL 29TH & 30TH
WICHITA, KS - NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

CONFERENCE FOCUS TOPICS:

- COMMUNITY MAPPING: EMBEDDING YOUR PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD LANDSCAPE (PARTNERSHIPS)
- SUPPORTING PARENT CHILD INTERACTIONS - LET THEM TAKE THE LEAD
- HOME VISITOR TOOLS, TIPS & TRICKS
- GROUP CONNECTIONS: INNOVATIVE, FORWARD THINKING IDEAS
- TAILORING HOME VISITS TO BEST SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH IDENTIFIED NEEDS
- SUPPORTING PREGNANT AND PARENTING TEENS WITH PAT HOME VISITS
- QEIP: COORDINATOR DISCUSSION FOR LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES (HAVING A STRONG PROGRAM BLUEPRINT)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PRESENTING ON ONE OF THE FOCUS AREAS LISTED ABOVE OR ON ANOTHER TOPIC RELEVANT TO THIS WORK?



SESSIONS WILL BE 75 MINUTES LONG AND EMPHASIZE HANDS-ON LEARNING TO SUPPORT ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT.

**SUBMIT A
PROPOSAL**

Please fill out the proposal form by connecting at the following web address:

[Submit a Proposal](#)

**DUE FEBRUARY
20TH, 2026**



A free KPATA Membership will be provided for up to two presenters for the 26-27 program year.

Questions?

Please contact Jenny Smith at jsmith@kpata.org

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*



February 19th

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Safe Sleep Trainings

ZOOM SAFE SLEEP TRAINING

Provided for free by Safe Sleep
Instructor: Meg Yenser

March 12th, 2026

1:00–2:00 pm

- ✓ Meets Bright Futures Safe Sleep Requirements
- ✓ A Pre and Post Test will be provided, once completed a certificate of completion will be emailed out



[REGISTER HERE](#)

TRAINING FOR KPATA MEMBERS



KPATA Trainings

TRAINING FOR KPATA MEMBERS



Supporting Mothers with Perinatal Depression in Home Visiting Programs

Presented By: Robert Ammerman, PhD
Every Child Succeeds, Cincinnati Children's Hospital



This presentation will focus on understanding and supporting mothers in home visiting who are experiencing perinatal depression. It includes (1) symptoms, features, and course of depression in mothers; (2) how depression impacts parenting and child development; and (3) how home visiting can support depressed mothers and facilitate recovery. Moving Beyond Depression, a program uniquely designed to provide treatment for depressed mothers in home visiting programs, will also be described.

March 27th, 2026
1:00 AM – 2:00 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

Share & Show Our Favorites

Book, activity enhancement, resource, song or fingerplay
7/17 1:00-2:30 PM

★ AUGUST

CONVERSATIONS ^{KS} Communities

8/21 1:00-2:00 PM

SEPTEMBER

PAT Engage Starting at Square 1

9/19 1:00-2:30 PM

★ OCTOBER

Understanding NEURODIVERSITY

SARAH JONES/KCCTO

10/3 1:00-2:30 PM

NOVEMBER

Motivational Interviewing Refresher

Scott Kerby

11/14 1:00-2:30 PM

DECEMBER

CATCH UP

FEBRUARY

HOPE TRAINING

Dana Book/KCSL

2/19 1:00-3:00PM

MARCH

MATERNAL DEPRESSION

Robert Ammerman/CCHMC
MOVING BEYOND DEPRESSION TRAINER

3/27 1:00-2:00 PM

★ JANUARY

Intimate Partner Violence survivor-informed insights

Kristina Scott-KCSDV

1/15 10:00-11:30 AM

★ APRIL

Child Abuse and Neglect

Valeria Adame/KCSL

4/9 1:00-2:30 PM

★ MAY

Vaping Products and Treatment Resources

Matthew Schrock/ KANQUIT

5/7 1:00-2:00 PM

OTHER NOTES:

* Please use Dec. to catch up on a recorded training

* No Training in June

★ INDICATES A PATNC QUALITY STANDARD TRAINING REQUIREMENT



Safe Sleep Trainings



More Upcoming Safe Sleep Trainings

February 18th
10am - 12pm

March 17th
1pm - 3pm

April 16th
10am - 12pm

All classes will be offered virtually on Microsoft Teams.
Please email Linda Gallagher at
Linda.Gallagher@ks.gov if you are interested in
attending.



Kansas Action for Children Early Learning Advocacy Day



Early Childhood Day Solid Start, Stronger Tomorrow

February 25, 2026

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Kansas Statehouse

JOIN **KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN** AT THE STATEHOUSE TO CHAMPION EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SHOW LAWMAKERS WHY THE EARLIEST YEARS MATTER.

ON **FEBRUARY 25 IN TOPEKA**, YOU'LL HELP EDUCATE LEGISLATORS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES AND SHARE HOW YOUR COMMUNITY IS SUPPORTING YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- **SPEAK WITH LAWMAKERS:** WE WILL PAIR YOU WITH OTHER ADVOCATES FOR BRIEF, 15-MINUTE MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS
- **WATCH THE LEGISLATURE IN ACTION:** OBSERVE SENATE OR HOUSE CHAMBER PROCEEDINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- **EXPLORE:** TOUR THE HISTORIC KANSAS STATEHOUSE
- **BUILD CONNECTIONS:** NETWORK WITH OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS AND ADVOCATES AT BREAKFAST

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN TOPEKA ON **FEBRUARY 25!**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Pre-Capitol Day Learning Lab Adventure



CONNECT
COLLABORATE
EXPLORE

PRE-CAPITOL DAY
LEARNING LAB
ADVENTURE!

Tuesday, March 3rd @ 4:30
4400 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604

Parents as Teachers staff members are encouraged to join us for an interactive tour of this amazing facility now available for families!



[Register Now](#)




Home Visiting Program Advocacy Day



KANSAS HOME VISITING PROGRAMS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

MARCH 4, 2026
8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

For questions, please contact:

 HKOEHN@KPATA.ORG

JOIN US

- NETWORK WITH OTHER HOME VISITING PROFESSIONALS
- MEET WITH LAWMAKERS
- LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT HOME VISITING MODELS PROVIDED IN KANSAS


agenda

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION OPENS
9:00 A.M. OPENING STATEMENTS
9:45 A.M. PHOTO GALLERY WALK

LAWMAKER VISITS WILL OCCUR
THROUGHOUT THE DAY
**(PLEASE REACH OUT TO SCHEDULE
YOUR VISITS AHEAD OF TIME)**

**2ND FLOOR ROTUNDA -
NORTH WING**

KANSAS STATE CAPITOL
300 W. 10TH TOPEKA, KS

REGISTER NOW 

KPATA All Members Meeting

*Registration Details
Coming Soon*



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS



via ZOOM

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH 2026

NOON - 1PM

*Join us to hear about the important work of
KPATA, vote on the slate of Board officers,
and provide feedback as a member!*

KPATA Board Member Applications



[SEE DETAILS](#)
[AND](#)
[APPLY HERE](#)

Last chance to apply

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND.**



STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS THROUGH SCHOOL-BASED RECRUITMENT

Over the past month, our Supporting Care Providers of Kansas (SCPK) Outreach- Recruitment Specialist has been on the move, visiting nearly 30 elementary schools as part of our ongoing recruitment and community outreach efforts. These visits provided a vital opportunity to connect directly with school staff and families to share information about the SCPK program and the unique supports offered to FFN care providers and the children and families in their care.

WHY SCHOOLS MATTER

Elementary schools serve as trusted hubs for families, making them the ideal setting to introduce resources that promote early childhood development, family stability, and overall well-being. During our visits, we focused on building lasting relationships with principals, teachers, counselors, family liaisons, and support staff to ensure they know how to connect their families utilizing FFN child care providers with our services.

SUPPORTING FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR (FFN) CHILD CARE

A major focus of our outreach is reaching families who utilize Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) child care. This includes any family with a child (birth to five years of age) being cared for by:

- Grandparents, aunts, or uncles
- Trusted friends or neighbors
- Other informal in-home providers

We know that these care providers are essential pillars of our community's child care system. Our program is currently serving FFN providers within Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, ensuring these providers, children, and their families have access to the same high-quality resources, education, and one-on-one guidance often available in formal settings.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our presence in these schools has already opened doors to further collaboration, including invitations to kindergarten roundups, PTO meetings, and family engagement events. As we continue our work in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, we remain committed to strengthening these partnerships to ensure that families choosing FFN child care have a provider who feels supported, equipped, and connected to the resources their children need to thrive.



EQUIPPING FFN CARE PROVIDERS WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE.



EXPANDING OUR REACH AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS—ONE SCHOOL AT A TIME.



CONTACT US

Do you have additional questions about our program, eligibility, or how to get involved? Whether you are a family, a FFN care provider, or a community partner, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to us at:

Becky Stewart/Program Director

rstewart@kpata.org

913-340-4574

Maria Rios/Outreach-Recruitment Specialist

mrios@kpata.org

913-731-4834

[HTTPS://KPATA.ORG/SUPPORTING-CARE-PROVIDERS-OF-KANSAS/](https://kpata.org/supporting-care-providers-of-kansas/)



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



Dr. Ross W. Greene

Psychologist & Author

Breastfeeding Message of the Month

BUILDING RESILIENCY AND FOSTERING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN.



Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BUILD RESILIENCY AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE? IT CAN BE AS EASY AS SUPPORTING BREASTFEEDING, WHICH FOSTERS PARENTAL ATTACHMENT. RESPONSIVE FEEDING FROM CARE PROVIDERS BUILDS COMMUNICATION AND TRUST WITH THE CHILD. FREQUENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CARE PROVIDERS AND PARENTS CREATES A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP. QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EVERYONE CREATE A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILD TO GROW IN RESILIENCY AND THRIVE. FOR MORE BENEFITS OF CARING FOR BREASTFED BABIES IN CHILD CARE, CHECK OUT [BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT IN THE CHILD CARE SETTING](#) FROM THE KANSAS BREASTFEEDING COALITION.

Social and Emotional Development

Care providers can build resiliency and foster social-emotional development in children



Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.

What have we been up to?

Did YOU KNOW?



Kansas Office of Early Childhood Advisory Group

Hilary currently serves on the Kansas Office of Early Childhood Advisory Group. The goal of the advisory group is to support the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood. The Office of Early Childhood will prioritize strengthened coordination, partnership, and support across the early childhood system in Kansas.

“I am honored to serve as a member of the Kansas Office of Early Childhood Advisory Group. My goal is to meaningfully support and elevate the voices of early childhood and home visiting as we work toward establishing the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). I am committed to centering a strong community voice—one that reflects the experiences and needs of families, children, and the professionals who serve them.”



[Kansas Office of Early Childhood Inaugural Annual Report](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 19TH - HOPE TRAINING
- 20TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 25TH - EARLY LEARNING ADVOCACY DAY

MARCH

- 20TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 12TH - SAFE SLEEP TRAINING
- 27TH - MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

