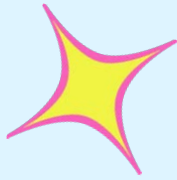




*KPATA
CONFERENCE
IS ALMOST
HERE...*



*Details
inside*

*Save the
DATE*

KPATA Conference
April 29th & 30th - 2026
Newman University - Wichita, KS



*Awesome
NEWS*

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Executive Director Letter	2
Bright Futures Successes	3
KPATA Conference	4-7
KPATA Trainings	8-11
Safe Sleep Trainings	12
Care & Wellness Conference	13
Drug Endangered Children	14
KPATA All Members Meeting	15
Supporting Care Providers	16-17
Neuroscience Study	18
Breastfeeding Message	19
Did you know / Upcoming events	20



**A NOTE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE**

DIRECTOR

ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- JOIN US FOR HOME VISITING PROGRAM ADVOCACY DAY ON MARCH 4TH
- KPATA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BACK TO THE FUTURE 4/29 & 4/30

Dear KPATA Members,

"The first blooms of spring always make my heart sing." –S. Brown

There is something powerful about the first signs of spring. After seasons of waiting, planning, and tending to the soil, we begin to see new growth. That is exactly how this moment feels for early childhood in Kansas.

Across our state, we are witnessing the first blooms of a stronger, more connected system of support for young children and families. With the continued development of the Office of Early Childhood, Kansas is stepping into a future where collaboration replaces fragmentation and where families experience seamless, responsive services designed with them at the center.

During February, KPATA has been busy with the following:

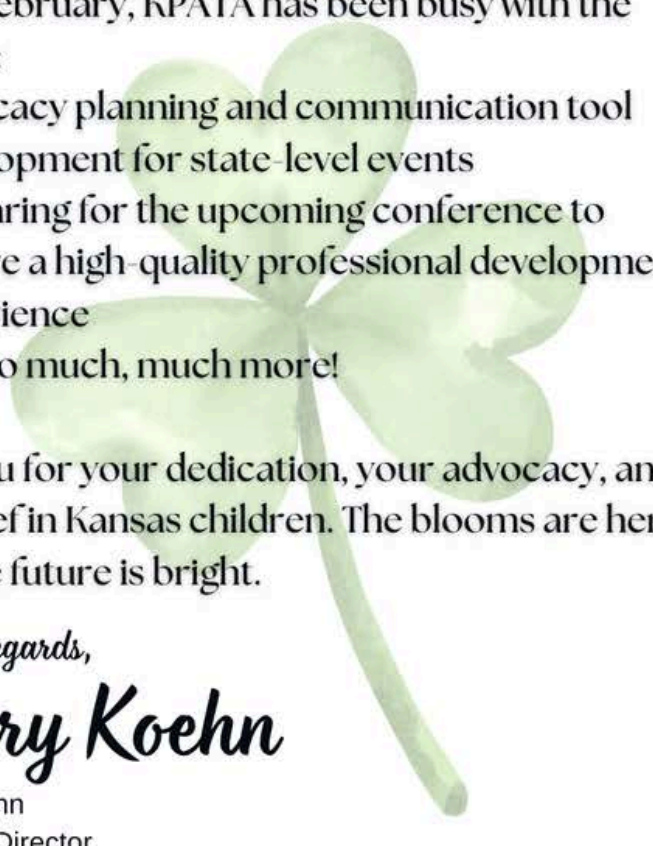
- Advocacy planning and communication tool development for state-level events
- Preparing for the upcoming conference to ensure a high-quality professional development experience
- And so much, much more!

Thank you for your dedication, your advocacy, and your belief in Kansas children. The blooms are here—and the future is bright.

Warm Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director



BRIGHT FUTURES SUCSESSES

SUCCESS STORY

I have absolutely loved getting to know this family. Like many families, mom has been an inspiration to me. Many times she would arrive at visits completely exhausted, physically and mentally with life, yet she showed up for her PAT appointment. With everything she had going on, from a severe accident and recovery to an ill grandmother and housing instability, mom showed up for visits. She would adjust as needed on meeting times and places, always responsive to her appointment and involvement in the program. Her sense of humor and playfulness began showing up in visits. I could tell that time with the program was a bright spot in her week and the hour we shared together was connection time for her and her boys. This family was a self-referral, this itself shows how determined mom is to do what is best for her family. Needless to say, it has been an honor to serve her and the family and I hope that PAT's impact on the family is just as long-lasting as the family's impact will be on me.

- 16 NEW REFERRALS
- 74 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 soon!

"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

**Learning Session Signup
Coming Soon!**

kpata
KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

BACK TO THE FUTURE
2026
CONFERENCE

SNEAK PEEK

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

mental health for the **WHOLE** family

GOALS LIST

1. Grow as an educator
2. Prioritize health and well-being
3. Network & learn with others in my field

stay inspired!

mindful parenting

child development

guiding parents

Screen time

reflection & wellness

favorite visit tips

PLAY consistency

Impact: Screen Time

"Where We're Going, Families Come First"

12 mo. of GREAT Group Connections

Well Being
NEXT EXIT

APRIL 29TH & 30TH
WICHITA, KS
NEWMAN UNIVERSITY

KPATA Conference 2026



ASK for the “Block Rate” for the KPATA Conference

RECOMMENDED HOTEL OPTIONS:

Fairfield Inn & Suites Wichita Downtown

525 S Main St, Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 201-1400, Option 0

Rate is \$139 for each room per night
Code KPATA Conference

Breakfast and parking included
All reservations must be made before
April 14, 2026

[Reserve Rooms Online Here](#)

Hilton Garden Inn Bradley Fair

2041 North Bradley Fair Parkway
Wichita, KS 67206 (closer to shops)
316-219-4444

Hiltonbradleyfair.com

Rate is \$134

Group code KPAA

Includes hot breakfast

Cut off for this rate is **April 14th, 2026**

KPATA 2026
CONFERENCE

Hotel Info

Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview-Wichita

400 West Douglas Avenue
Wichita, KS 67202

Rate is \$120

[Reserve Rooms Online Here](#)

Or call 1-800-325-0720 and provide Group
Number: **10173418**

Parking is \$14/night

Includes Breakfast & 5:30-7 p.m. Kickback
w/snacks & drinks

Cut off for the room rate is **March 27, 2026**.

Tax Exempt status must be sent to the hotel by
March 24th, 2026.



***Remember to mention TAX EXEMPT
and KPATA Conference. Tax Exempt Certificate must
be sent to hotel BEFORE arrival.**

If you need assistance please contact Amanda Winch at awinch@kpata.org

KPATA Conference 2026


KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

COME HANG OUT

EVENING SOCIAL

*Retro - dress in your favorite
Back-to-the-Future Attire*

29
APRIL

POINT NINE
1539 N ANDOVER RD.
ANDOVER, KS 67002

5:45
PM

KPATA Trainings

Child Abuse & Neglect

MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING

KPATA IS PLEASED TO HOST A VIRTUAL TRAINING MODULE

APRIL 9th 1:00 - 2:30



Presenter: Valeria Adame

Kansas Children's Service League



Kansas Children's Service League
Stronger families start here.

Details of Training:

Child Abuse and Neglect: Recognition, Reporting & Supporting

Kansas law states that most professionals who work with children, including medical professionals, social workers, nurses, educators and others, are mandated reporters and are required by law to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect. This presentation will address areas of risk and protective factors, definitions of child abuse and neglect per Kansas law and provide examples of signs and symptoms. Participants will also learn the appropriate responses to suspected abuse or neglect, discuss what to do in the event of child disclosure and understand Kansas mandated reporter laws. This training is approved by KDHE for 1.5 child care licensing hours.

[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

Motivational Interviewing Refresher

Scott Kerby
11/14 1:00-2:30 PM

DECEMBER

CATCH UP

JANUARY

Intimate Partner Violence survivor-informed insights Kristina Scott-KCSDV

1/15 10:00-11:30 AM

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

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

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.



Save the Date!

Care & Wellness Conference

Registration Details
Coming Soon!



Save the Date

Care & Wellness Conference

May 6 // Wichita (South Central Region)

May 7 // Salina (North Central Region)

June 26 // Kansas City (Northeast Region)

Drug Endangered Children Series

Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Awareness Brown Bag Series

Join us from 12-1pm Central Time to learn more about drug endangered children from experts, those with lived experiences and professionals working to provide help, hope and support to children and families.

Register:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bn9zqm9>

Save the Dates Wednesdays,
April 1, 8, 15 & 29,
2026

Brought to you in partnership by Shawnee County, Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and NADEC



April 22 is DEC Awareness Day - Join the National All Hands on DEC Call from 2-3pm Central Time

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/uzh237m>



Brown Bag Sessions



April 1 - Fentanyl Overdose and Child Death Investigations: The Beautiful Giles Case Study – Sgt Joseph DeRogatis, Palm Beach County Sheriff

April 8 - Voices of Recovery - Direct Experience Panel

April 15 - Substance Use in Pregnancy - Red Flag or Red Herring? - Dr. Margaret Sieger

April 29 - Gas Station Dope: Understanding and Responding to Legal-But-Risky Substances – Special Agent James Hixson, TBI

April 22 is DEC Awareness Day - Join the National All Hands on DEC Call from 2-3pm Central Time

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/uzh237m>

[**Register Here**](#)

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!*



SUCCESS STORIES: SUPPORTING CARE PROVIDERS OF KANSAS

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers are a vital part of our diverse childcare ecosystem. These dedicated grandparents, aunts, uncles, trusted friends and neighbors provide the flexible, nurturing care that many children and families need to thrive. Through the Supporting Care Providers of Kansas Home Visiting program, they gain access to specialized resources and a partnership that builds on their existing strengths. Here are examples of how collaborative home visits are highlighting growth:

PARTNERING FOR THE "FIRST ADVOCATE"

When we began working with a great-grandmother, she was already highly attuned to her great-grandchild's needs. By building on her expertise and the deep trust she had established, we used developmental screenings to explore milestones together. She led the way in identifying areas where the child could benefit from extra support, eventually guiding the parents to begin Infant-Toddler Services (ITS). Today, she feels empowered as a key advocate, proudly sharing the child's progress in communication and social engagement.

CELEBRATING THE "JOY OF PRETEND PLAY"

Early childhood is a world of imagination, and our program celebrates how daily interactions build a child's brain. After discussing how simple moments spark new milestones, a provider excitedly reported that pretend play had become a central part of their time together. During our visit, the child showcased her expanding world by "playing coffee shop", "shopping at Target" and making animal sounds while talking on her play phone. The provider cheered for every new skill, perfectly capturing the pride of a provider nurturing a child's natural curiosity.

EXPANDING THE WORLD OF LITERACY

Literacy is a beautiful way for providers to connect with children. One provider wanted to read more with the child in her care, but most books in the home were in English. Our Provider Educator provided bilingual books and suggested narrating the images or co-creating stories. They are now reading together every day, and the child loves inventing his own unique endings to every story they explore.

WHY IT MATTERS

Supporting Kansas FFN providers strengthens our entire childcare network and prepares children to thrive. These stories honor the dedication of providers who turn everyday moments into big victories for Kansas children and families.



CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

Have questions about our program, eligibility, or how to get involved? Whether you are a family, an FFN provider, or a community partner, we would love to hear from you. Together, we are building a stronger Kansas for our children.

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/)



Screen Time Neuroscience Study

CHECK OUT THIS STUDY FROM
NEUROSCIENCE NEWS




Early Screen Time Linked to Long-Term Brain Changes, Teen Anxiety

[CLICK HERE](#)



Breastfeeding Message of the Month

BREASTFEEDING IS THE BEST VALENTINE!



BREASTFEEDING IS ROOTED IN LOVE. OXYTOCIN, THE LOVE HORMONE, IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF BREASTFEEDING. IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING BREAST MILK FLOW MORE EASILY, BONDING BETWEEN MOM AND BABY, AND REDUCING BOTH MOM'S AND BABY'S STRESS HORMONES! WHEN MOMS FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED, OXYTOCIN FLOWS FREELY, AS DOES MILK FOR BABY. PROVIDERS CAN HELP MOMS FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED BY POSTING BREASTFEEDING POSTERS, HAVING A BREASTFEEDING POLICY, AND INVITING MOMS TO NURSE ON SITE. WHEN MOM IS BREASTFEEDING, BOTH SHE AND HER BABY ARE FLOODED WITH OXYTOCIN.

THIS RESULTS IN A CALMER, HAPPIER, AND FED BABY! AND GET REIMBURSED BY CACFP! A WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE! ENROLL IN THE NEXT [HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS AND FAMILIES](#), AND EARN 2 CONTACT HOURS! (ALSO IN SPANISH!)



Breastfeeding is the best valentine.



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

What have we been up to?

Did
YOU KNOW?



In partnership with Sing.Play.Love., KPATA is sharing the justtenminutes.org message statewide, highlighting how young children's brains are built through simple, everyday interactions—talking, reading, singing, and playing together.

Research shows that excessive screen time can impact cognitive development, physical health, and social-emotional growth. justtenminutes.org provides easy, engaging replacement activities that support families in finding a healthy balance with screens while strengthening parent-child connection.

Together, we can protect the everyday moments that matter most. Limit Screens. Increase Connection. Protect Development. Protect the moments that build the brain.



just 10 minutes



March

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

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

APRIL

- 9TH - CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT TRAINING
- 17TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 29TH - 30TH - KPATA CONFERENCE

