

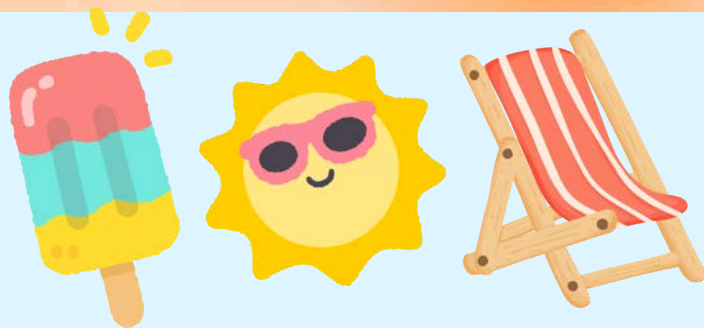


2026-2027 TRAINING
SCHEDULE COMING SOON,
STAY TUNED!



Purchase or
renew your
2026-2027
KPATA
Membership
Now

[Click Here](#)



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JUNE 
vibes



**A NOTE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE**

**DIRECTOR
ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT**

- THE 2026-27 KPATA TRAINING CALENDAR IS BEING FINALIZED AND WILL BE SHARED OUT WITH PROGRAMS SOON. PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Dear KPATA Members,

Success 
is a *Decision*

Positivity
is
calling

June has a way of inviting us to take a breath.

After a full program year of home visits, screenings, group connections, meetings, paperwork, problem-solving, celebrating milestones, and showing up for families in big and small ways, summer gives us a natural pause. Not a stop — because we know the work never truly stops — but a chance to step back, reflect, and reset.

For Parents as Teachers programs across Kansas, June can be a meaningful time to look at what worked well, what stretched us, and what we want to carry forward. It is a chance to ask: Where did we see growth? Where did families feel most supported? What do we want to do differently? It is also a time to reconnect with the heart of this work. At its core, Parents as Teachers is about relationships — sitting with families, listening without judgment, celebrating small wins, and helping parents recognize the powerful role they already play in their child's development. It is about walking alongside families, not ahead of them.

As programs begin thinking about the year ahead, KPATA encourages each of you to dream a little. Maybe this is the year to strengthen your advisory council, try a new group connection format, build a stronger referral partnership, lift up parent voices, or create more space for your team to feel supported and connected.

The work is ongoing, and each part of the process matters. As summer begins, KPATA appreciates the continued commitment of programs across Kansas and looks forward to supporting this work in the year ahead.

Warm Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director



BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESES

SUCCESS STORY

The family completed a year and a half of services. The family moved to a new city and the three older children were settled in at school and [child] was evaluated for speech. He is now receiving services through the school district. Mom has the support of her church and has made some connections at the school with staff. During our time together, mom purchased her own home and has been working hard to make improvements. We visited numerous community recreational places together as well as the library. [Child] met all but two of his developmental milestones before his 4th birthday. Mom also established a discipline plan for the children and found success with it as a single parent. I am very proud of their accomplishments.

- 15 NEW REFERRALS
- 72 ACTIVE REFERRALS
- 39 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



KPATA Trainings

*New Training
Added!*

More Helpful Help

A Deeper Dive Into Motivational Interviewing

Presented by: Scott Kerby

Scott Kerby joined us in November and he's joining us for a half day training for a deeper dive into sustain talk, empathy and reflective skills, and intrinsic motivation for change!

Register Here!

JUNE 25TH

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Objectives:

1. Define and recognize the different types of change and sustain talk (key MI concepts)
2. Review how empathy and reflective skills earn our way into the “front seat” with the client.
3. Recognize how the Fixing (righting) Reflex hinders our ability to help others build their own intrinsic motivation for change.

A Training for KPATA Members



KPATA Trainings

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER.

Visit Tracker OFFICE HOURS

Join Hilary & Sarah for monthly Visit Tracker Office Hours!
KPATA is here to support your Visit Tracker learning
and success—and we want to hear from you.

- Answer your questions
- Troubleshoot challenges you're experiencing
- Gather your feedback on what supports you need most
- Help you feel more confident and efficient using Visit Tracker

Whether you're brand new or have been using Visit Tracker for years,
this is your space to connect, learn, and share.



Hilary Koehn
KPATA/
VT User



Sarah Berkley
Program Coordinator/
VT User

MAY 13TH & JUNE 10TH 2026 3-4:00 PM



2026-2027

KPATA Training Calendar

Remember!

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

You can purchase your 2026-2027 Membership (Training Pass) below!

Register

2026-2027 TRAINING
SCHEDULE COMING SOON,
STAY TUNED!



Purchase or
renew your
2026-2027
KPATA
Membership
Now

Click Here

Bright Futures New Data Reporting System

new!



Bonterra™ **CONNECT TRAINING**

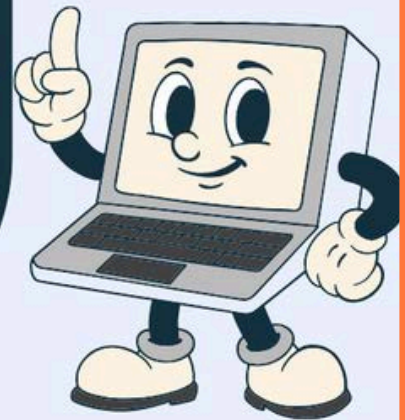
Tuesday, June 9th

1:00pm - 2:00pm

[Register Here](#)



Bright Futures is transitioning to a new platform for submitting reporting forms. This training will cover everything you need to know to use the system successfully. We need everyone serving Bright Futures families (coordinators and parent educators) to be trained on this. If you cannot make this training it will be recorded. We will start using this new data system for services provided July 1, 2026 and on.



Registration Now Open Care & Wellness Conference

A FREE EVENT FOR ALL FAMILIES & CARE PROFESSIONALS OF
YOUNG CHILDREN!

Care & Wellness Conference



WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

WICHITA, KS

Wichita State University's
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan
Complex | 5015 East 29th St N

9:00am to 4:30pm



THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

SALINA, KS

Tony's Pizza Event Center
800 The Midway, Salina

9:00am to 4:30pm



FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

OLATHE, KS

KVC Ball Event Center
21350 W 153rd St, Olathe

9:00am to 4:30pm



Join us for this free event!

- Stipends available for participating families of young children (birth to five)
- State-approved professional development hours provided
- Connect with local early childhood professionals & families
- Expand your skills to support your role as a caregiver & professional
- Find helpful resources
- Lunch is provided

SCAN CODE OR
VISIT LINK TO
REGISTER FOR
YOUR REGION:

SCAN ME



CLICK HERE



All In For
Kansas Kids

KPATA Social Media Connect Group



The KPATA Social Media Connect group Facebook page has been rededicated to sharing ideas, inspiration, and creative thinking for home visits, group connections, and social media! Whether you're looking to learn something new, exchange thoughts, or contribute your own insights, this page is a space where great ideas come together. Follow us to be part of engaging conversations, fresh content, and a supportive community that values collaboration and innovation.

[Join Group](#)

KPATA Social Media Connect Group
Stephanie Taylor · 57m · 🌐

I Spy another fun extension activity! Happy Tuesday!

Extended Activities:
I Spy Sensory Bin
Hide small toys or letters in rice, pompoms, kinetic sand, or beans.
This activity is fun for sorting, counting, and matching. It is also a fun activity for identifying colors, shapes, letters, and numbers.
I Spy Outdoor Adventure
Play I Spy outdoors in nature or go on a scavenger hunt!

Activity Page
born to learn
3 to 6 years

What do we have?
Children's book or magazine with detailed pictures
Paper towel or toilet paper roll (optional)

I Spy: Describing Objects and Practicing Conversation

How can we do it?

1. Explain how the game works. One player thinks about an object and tells the other a word that describes it.
2. Look around the room and choose an object. Use the phrase "I spy with my little eye something..." Describe the object using words like "blue" or "tall." Or use a word prompt: "I spy with my little eye something that starts with the letter D."
3. Encourage your child to guess the object. If they are unsure, give another clue.
4. Continue to take turns by giving clues and guessing.
5. To make the game a bit easier, use a paper towel or toilet paper roll as a "spyglass." This helps your child see the direction you are looking.
6. To make it more challenging, use pictures in a magazine or book as the "objects."

What's in it for us?

Language

- a. Playing together is an opportunity to use language and build vocabulary in a fun and meaningful way.
- b. Taking turns sharing clues and guesses is a good way to practice conversation.
- c. Adding word prompts to the game (for example, describing an object's function, position or starting letter) helps children understand the relationship between an object and the words used to describe it.

Connecting across development

- **Cognitive:** Noticing details about objects helps children identify attributes, a cognitive skill that will help in school.
- **Social-emotional:** Games like I Spy help children become more aware of their surroundings and their place in the environment. Awareness of others is a social-emotional skill.
- **Motor:** At this age, children's ability to speak clearly is growing thanks to the fine motor skills in their mouths and tongues.

Parenting behavior

- Communicating
- Designing/guiding
- Nurturing
- Responding
- Supporting learning

Book sharing

Detailed pictures are great for helping your child learn to narrate a story. Encourage them to tell what happened in the book by describing what they see in the pictures. This way of retelling the story builds their memory and vocabulary.

I Spy Little Book

I Spy Outdoor Adventure

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

SUPPORTING

Care Providers of Kansas

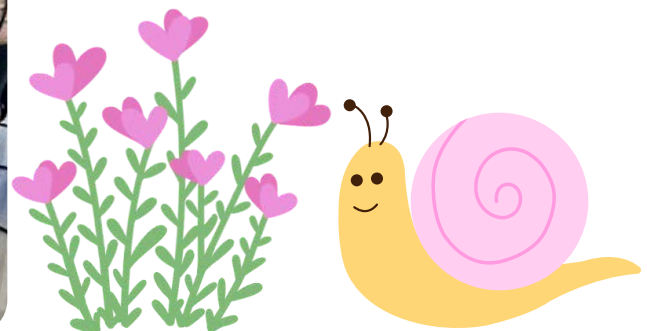
FIRST CAREGIVER CONVERSATIONS

SCPK hosted First Caregiver Conversations, a class for Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers, was held on May 16, 2026. The class was funded by Home Grown, whose mission is to build a more inclusive child care system that values and supports home-based child care (HBCC) as a quality option for families and children.

FFN providers attending the class reported that the number-one reason they provide care is trust: parents trust them more than other child care options. Other reasons shared included lack of available alternatives and unaffordable options. Providers were surprised to learn that there are over 5 million FFN care providers caring for more than 11.5 million children—and that they are included in those counts.



By the end of the five-part series, providers will be asked whether they would like to join Home Grown’s Vision & Action group of Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers. That group focuses on changing public policy to better support the valuable work FFN care providers do in caring for young children.



Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

SUPPORTING

Care Providers of Kansas



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



KS Home Visiting Conference

Save the Date!

SAVE THE DATE!

KANSAS HOME VISITING

Conference

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

9:30AM TILL 3PM

IN PERSON!

CHANUTE

GARDEN CITY

HAYS

KANSAS CITY

TOPEKA

WICHITA



**MORE INFO AND
REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**

Parent Leadership Conference

Save the Date!



PARENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2026

Resilient Families, Healthy Futures

YOU ARE
Invited!
**TO PARENT
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
2026**

...

A welcoming event for all parents!

**BRING YOUR ENERGY, IDEAS, AND
PASSION FOR STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY!**

Saturday, September 19th, 2026

9:30 AM- 5:30 PM

1st Methodist Church 122 N 8th • Salina, KS 67401

Questions? Contact Rachal Harper rharper@kcsf.org

Breastfeeding Message of the Month



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME KATIE GIVENS AS THE NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE KBC! HOPEFULLY, YOU SAW THE [ANNOUNCEMENT](#) THAT WAS SENT VIA EMAIL AND POSTED ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA. KATIE OFFICIALLY STARTED ON MAY 1, AND SHE AND BRENDA WILL WORK TOGETHER CLOSELY OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS UNTIL BRENDA'S DEPARTURE ON JULY 1. PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING KATIE! YOU CAN REACH HER AT KATIE@KSBREASTFEEDING.ORG. AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEND A CARD OR A NOTE TO BRENDA, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO! BRENDA CAN STILL BE REACHED AT BBANDY@KSBREASTFEEDING.ORG OR AT THE FOLLOWING MAILING ADDRESS: 3005 CHERRY HILL, MANHATTAN, KS, 66503.



UPCOMING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

2026 KANSAS BREASTFEEDING CONFERENCE OCTOBER 15 & 16
DRURY PLAZA HOTEL
[REGISTER AND RESERVE YOUR HOTEL](#)

[BREASTFEEDING 101, AUGUST 20, DECEMBER 10](#)

[BREASTFEEDING 201, AUGUST 20 & 21, DECEMBER 10 & 11](#)

[LACTATION SKILLS DAYS JUNE 8-12, IN TOPEKA, SALINA \(2 DAYS\), AND GARDEN CITY. REGISTRATION IS OPEN!](#)

A graphic with a white speech bubble on an orange background. The speech bubble contains the KPATA logo (Kansas Parents as Teachers) and the text: "BRIGHT FUTURES REMINDER", "Our program year ends on June 30th, 2026.", "All reports and receipts are due by July 1, 2026 at 10:00 AM.", and "Any June receipts or reports that have not been submitted for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 will not be accepted after July 1, 2026." There are yellow stars and a megaphone icon in the graphic.

 **kpata**
KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

**BRIGHT FUTURES
REMINDER**

Our program year ends on
June 30th, 2026.

**All reports and receipts are due by
July 1, 2026 at 10:00 AM.**

Any June receipts or reports that have not
been submitted for July 1, 2025-June 30,
2026 will not be accepted after
July 1, 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 19TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 25TH - MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TRAINING
- 30TH - LAST DAY OF PROGRAM YEAR

JULY

- 17TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- *ALL MONTHLY REPORTS DUE JULY 1ST*
- *TRAINING DATES COMING SOON!*

