



**DON'T
FORGET**

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR
YOUR KPATA MEMBERSHIP /
TRAINING PASS FOR THE
2026-2027 PROGRAM YEAR?**

**REGISTER
HERE**

**NEW TRAINING
SCHEDULE AVAILABLE!
SEE INSIDE!**

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Dear KPATA Members -

July feels like that in-between place where we are still trying to enjoy a little bit of summer, but also starting to think about the year ahead.

In June, we talked about taking a breath, reflecting on the program year, and reconnecting with the heart of this work. July gives us the chance to take some of that reflection and begin turning it into plans, goals, and next steps – hopefully with a little sunshine, a popsicle, and maybe a slower morning or two mixed in.

For Parents as Teachers programs across Kansas, this time of year can bring a lot of planning. Calendars, reports, data, forms, schedules, and all of the pieces that help programs run well start finding their way back to the top of the list. While those things are important, they are not the whole story.

The real heart of planning is thinking about families. What do families need from us this year? How can we continue to build trust? How do we make sure our work feels supportive, meaningful, and connected – not just another thing on a checklist?

I love the quote from C.S. Lewis: “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” That feels like a good reminder as we begin a new program year. Maybe this is the year your program tries something new. Maybe it is the year you strengthen a partnership, lift up parent voice in a more intentional way, or create more space for your staff to feel supported. Maybe it is simply the year you give yourself permission to focus on what matters most and not try to do all the things at once – which, let's be honest, is sometimes harder than it sounds.

As we move through July, I hope you can carry forward the lessons, stories, and small wins from the past year. I hope you can see the value of the work you have done, even in the moments that felt hard, messy, or held together by caffeine, sticky notes, and a lot of grace.

Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- A HUGE THANK YOU AS WE END THIS PROGRAM YEAR!
- PLEASE ADD THE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR'S TRAININGS TO YOUR CALENDAR

BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESSES

SUCCESS STORY

The family is doing well and has made steady progress over the course of their year of service in the program. [Child] has been attending district pre-kindergarten since the fall and is enrolled to continue for another year of pre-k beginning this August. He is currently participating in the district's ESY summer program.

[Child] has demonstrated notable growth in his social development, including increased engagement with peers, improved eye contact, and progress with non-verbal communication skills. The family is currently in the process of pursuing an evaluation for a possible autism diagnosis to better understand and support his developmental needs.

Mom is doing well and has been working significant overtime to address and stabilize household finances. While childcare outside of school hours continues to be a challenge, she is managing these needs with support from family and friends. Overall, the family has shown strong follow-through with services and appropriate efforts to support [child]'s development and well-being.

- 16 NEW REFERRALS
- 73 ACTIVE REFERRALS
- 39 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



NEW

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

TRAINING SCHEDULE

PARENT EDUCATORS AND COORDINATORS
KPATA BRIGHT FUTURES 2026-2027

JULY
**Share & Show
Our Favorites**
Book, activity, resource,
song or finger play
Just 10 Minutes
7/16 1:00-2:30 PM

★ AUGUST
**BUILDING A COMMUNITY
SAFETY NET:**
CONNECTING PEOPLE, PROCESSES,
AND TOOLS TO COORDINATE
RESOURCES THAT MATTER
RANDI HARMS & LORETTA
SEVERIN/KU CPPR
8/13 10:00-11:30 AM

SEPTEMBER
**Fostering Social-Emotional
Development in Young Children
with Autism Spectrum
Disorder:
Strategies and Best Practices**
Sarah Behrens PhD, LMSW
Postdoctoral Fellow/KU Med
9/10 1:00-2:30 PM

★ OCTOBER
**Professional Learning for
Parents as Teachers-Early
Literacy and
Developmental Language
Disorder**
Dr. Laurie Curtis/KSDE
10/15 1:00-3:00 PM

NOVEMBER
**Sign
Language**
Hailey Brooks
11/19 1:00-2:00 PM

DECEMBER
**CATCH
UP**

★ JANUARY
**IPV-Recognizing
and Responding
Safety Planning
for Survivors**
Kayla Ross/Rose Brooks
1/21 1:00-2:30 PM

FEBRUARY
**TO BE
DETERMINED**
*more information
to follow
2/?

MARCH
**STRESSED
OUT?**
HOW CORTISOL LEVELS ARE LINKED TO
BEHAVIORS IN EC
Audra Kenneson, LMSW
Leslie Stevens, LCMFT
3/4 1:00-3:00 PM

★ APRIL
**Child Abuse and
Neglect**
Valeria Adame/KCSL
4/15 1:00-2:30 PM

★ MAY
*Conversations that
Count: Supporting
Families in Reducing
Tobacco Exposure*
Kaoutar Yartaoui/ KDHE
5/13 1:00-2:30 PM

OTHER NOTES:
*Please use Dec. to
catch up on a
recorded training
*No Training
in June

★ INDICATES A PATNC QUALITY
STANDARD TRAINING REQUIREMENT

 **kpata**
KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

KPATA Trainings

Meeting the Required Trainings from PATNC



Quality Standard #27



**IDENTIFIED
ON THE
MAIN
TRAINING
CALENDAR
WITH A
PINK STAR.**

Child Abuse and Neglect -

Child Abuse and Neglect Training/KCSL

Community Needs -

*Building a Community Safety Net:
Connecting People, Processes, and Tools to
Coordinate Resources That Matter*

Intimate Partner Violence -

*Recognizing and Responding-Safety Planning for
Survivors/Rose Brooks*

Caregiver & Child Health and Wellness -

*Professional Learning for Parents as Teachers-
Early Literacy and Developmental Language
Disorder/KSDE*

Substance Use Disorder-

*Conversations that Count: Supporting Families in
Reducing Tobacco Exposure/KDHE*

KPATA Trainings

TRAINING SCHEDULE

PARENT EDUCATORS AND COORDINATORS
KPATA BRIGHT FUTURES 2026-2027

OAE
TRAINING & RESOURCES
Virtual Training available on the
[KPATA Members Drive](#)
Presented by Liz Schardine-KDHE

HIPAA
REQUIRED ANNUAL TRAINING FOR
BRIGHT FUTURES PROVIDERS
Details on how to complete
training are available on
the [KPATA Members Drive](#).

ASQ
For New Parent
Educators

08/07/2026

[REGISTER HERE](#)

*PLEASE REACH OUT
TO
JSMITH@KPATA.ORG
REGARDING TRAINING
AVAILABILITY/NEEDS

KPATA

**Collaborative
Learning Day**

*DATE AND LOCATION
COMING SOON
APRIL 2027



KPATA SAFE SLEEP TRAININGS

7/14/26 @10 AM *Sarah Berkley & Kelsey Hensley

9/17/26@ 2 PM *Brittany Denson

12/7/26@ 11 AM *Maria Torres

3/4/27@ 1 PM *Kicia Wagner

*Training provided by Certified Safe Sleep Instructors

*New Safe Sleep Training is now required annually for Bright Futures



*Save
THE
Date*

**KANSAS HOME VISITING
Conference**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

9:30AM TILL 3PM



KPATA Trainings

TRAINING SCHEDULE

EXCLUSIVE FOR COORDINATORS
BRIGHT FUTURES 2026-2027

SUMMER

SEPTEMBER

BRIGHT
FUTURES
PROGRAM
MEETING

9/24 1:00-2:30 PM

AUTUMN

NOVEMBER

Fall Kick-Off
In-Person

KSDE COORDINATOR
MEETING

DATE AND
LOCATION TBD

WINTER

JANUARY

BRIGHT
FUTURES
PROGRAM
MEETING

DATE AND TIME TBD

SPRING

APRIL

COORDINATOR
CONVERSATION

KPATA SPRING
EVENT



**DOWNLOAD THE FULL
TRAINING CALENDAR HERE**

KPATA Trainings

ZOOM SAFE SLEEP TRAINING

Provided for free by Safe Sleep
Instructors: Sarah Berkley &
Kelsey Hensley

July 14th, 2026
10:00–11:00 am

✓ Meets Bright Futures Safe
Sleep Requirements

REGISTER HERE



TRAINING FOR KPATA MEMBERS



KPATA Trainings



Show and Share For KPATA Members!

Join Us for this unique opportunity to share your favorite books, activities, enhancements, resources, songs or fingerplays! We want to hear them all!



1:00-2:30 PM

Register
Now



Tell Us
Your
Favorites!

Just 10 Minutes Resource
Sharing!



KPATA Trainings

BUILDING A COMMUNITY SAFETY NET: CONNECTING PEOPLE, PROCESSES, AND TOOLS TO COORDINATE RESOURCES THAT MATTER

Communities are rich with resources—but too often, those resources are hard to navigate, disconnected from one another, or not reached by the people who need them most.

This webinar will explore how communities can create a more connected and responsive safety net by improving how providers identify, connect to, and follow through on supports for the families they serve. This session will focus on:

- People — the relationships and roles that enable providers to coordinate and follow through
- Processes — how resource navigation is streamlined through provider workflows
- Tools — technical approaches that support visibility, navigation, and coordinated action The goal is to move beyond fragmented efforts toward a coordinated, community-wide approach to resource sharing.

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify and assess gaps in community resource networks. - Analyze where breakdowns occur within communities, including gaps in available resources, visibility, and coordination that impact providers' ability to connect families to support.
- Evaluate barriers to effective coordination and navigation. - Examine both technical and non-technical challenges that limit how providers identify, access, and follow through on available supports.
- Describe the role of cross-sector collaboration in strengthening coordinated systems. - Explain how partnerships enable more effective provider action and contribute to a more connected and responsive system of care.
- Apply a people, process, and tools framework to improve coordinated action. - Use a structured approach to assess and strengthen how providers navigate, connect to, and follow through on resources within community systems.
- Develop strategies to strengthen coordinated, community - wide support. - Formulate practical approaches that equip providers to take action and ensure families experience timely, relevant, and effective connections to support.



**PRESENTATION BY:
RANDI HARMS AND
LORETTA SEVERIN**



AUGUST

13

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Please Note: This webinar is not only for KPATA members. Please Register Below. The event will be recorded and added to the KPATA Drive. A Certificate will be provided to attendees.

REGISTER HERE

Training Opportunity

TRAINING
OPPORTUNITY

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGES & STAGES QUESTIONNAIRES (ASQ)

Course will meet online and is FREE
to attend.



MONDAY
7 AUGUST 2026



TIME
01:00 PM-3:00 PM



[REGISTER](#)

Provided by:

- KSDE Early Childhood Special Education
- Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)



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



FACEBOOK
CLICK OR SCAN



OUR WEBSITE
CLICK OR SCAN



INSTAGRAM
CLICK OR SCAN



NEW! Educational Flyer from Safe Kids Kansas



Vapes, Nicotine & Kids: What Every Caregiver Should Know

Why Vapes, E-liquids and Other Nicotine Products Are Dangerous

- Nicotine poisoning can affect anyone, but children are at greater risk due to their lower body weight and smaller body size.
- In Kansas, children under age 5 have the highest rate of accidental nicotine poisoning. (Kansas Hospital Association, Kansas Emergency Department Visits Data, 2020-2024)
- Nicotine is found in products like pouches, pods, cigarettes, lozenges, gum, and smokeless tobacco.
- Bright labels, sweet smells, and colorful packaging can make these products look like candy or toys.
- Most vape e-liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals that can be toxic to children if swallowed, inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or splashed in the eyes.



Ways to Prevent Nicotine Poisoning

- Keep all nicotine products in their original packaging and secure them up and away – out of sight and reach.
- Kids often copy the behavior of others. Do not use nicotine products in front of children.
- Prevent exposure by refilling products away from children.
- Recycle or safely throw away used products right away.



Signs and Symptoms of Nicotine Poisoning



What to Do If You Suspect Nicotine Poisoning

If the person is having trouble breathing, having a seizure, or is unresponsive, call 911 right away. If you suspect poisoning or have questions, call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Be ready to tell them:

- What and how much was swallowed or touched
- Any symptoms they are experiencing



Scan the QR Code to save the Poison Help line to your phone contacts.

**POISON
HELP**
1-800-222-1222

KANSAS POISON
CENTER

The Best Prevention is Quitting

Many people who use tobacco or nicotine products want to quit, and it may take several tries. The good news: FREE help is available to all Kansans through the [Kansas Tobacco Quitting](https://www.kansastobaccoquitting.org).



Scan the QR code to visit the KDHE Tobacco is Changing website.

KanQuit!
1-800-QUIT-NOW (786-8667)
Ksquit.org

Remember, many nicotine products come in bright, colorful, candy-like packaging, which can tempt young children to touch or taste them.

FIND IT HERE!



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@kcsl.org

Breastfeeding Message of the Month



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.



... the lactation support provider you want to be

The Lactation Support Scholarship Application is Open!

In alignment with the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition's commitment to addressing disparities in breastfeeding, the KBC is pleased to announce a funding program to support aspiring lactation support providers, such as:

- Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
- Breastfeeding or lactation educator or counselor with a certification (CLC, CBS, etc.). Certification must be listed HERE.
- International Board Certified Lactation Consultant

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition is committed to providing up to \$20,000 in 2026. Individual educational grants will be capped at \$1,000 for those seeking a certification and \$2,000 for those wanting to take the IBCLC exam in 2027.

The application closes at 8 a.m on July 15, and awards are announced on August 19.

APPLY HERE

Funding for this project was provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment with funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Maternal and Child Health Service Block Grant [Award B04MC45217; CFDA 93.994] AND provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment with funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Women, Infants, Children Nutrition Program [CFDA No. 10.557].



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
info@ksbreastfeeding.org
ksbreastfeeding.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

UPCOMING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 14TH - SAFE SLEEP TRAINING
- 16TH - SHOW & SHARE
- 17TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING

AUGUST

- 7TH - ASQ TRAINING
- 13TH - COMMUNITY SAFETY NET TRAINING
- 21ST - KPATA BOARD MEETING

