



August is National Breastfeeding Month

Find Details Inside!



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BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESSES

SUCCESS STORY

When we began PAT services, [child] was almost 20 months old and was just starting to pull up to stand while holding onto furniture. [Child] preferred to sit and crawl. Now two months later, [child] can stand up and walk independently even with their brace and new shoes on. [Child] can walk and dance and tries to jump. Walking is the preferred method of moving around the apartment and they now walk when going somewhere in town rather than [mom] pushing him in the stroller. [Mom] has been working on childproofing their apartment now that [child] is more mobile.

- 19 NEW REFERRALS
- 77 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

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**

CHAMP
Software

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

KPATA Trainings



Sarah Behrens, PhD, LMSW

Fostering Social-Emotional Development in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Strategies and Best Practices

Objectives:

Describe social-emotional development and explain why it is foundational to young children's learning, relationships, behavior, and overall well-being.

Recognize key aspects of social-emotional development in young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including how developmental pathways may vary across children and the role of responsive caregiver-child relationships in supporting development.

Identify evidence-informed strategies that support social-emotional development, emotional regulation, communication, social engagement, and positive caregiver-child interactions for young children with ASD.

Apply coaching practices during home visits to help caregivers embed social-emotional development strategies into everyday routines, play, and family interactions.

Support families in creating nurturing, inclusive environments that build on children's strengths, respond to individual needs, and promote positive social-emotional growth and participation in home and community settings.

BIO

Sarah Behrens, PhD, MSW is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Kansas Medical Center whose research focuses on advancing early relational health during pediatric well-child visits. Her work centers on implementing equitable, family-centered interventions in primary care to support social-emotional development, strengthen caregiver-child relationships, and improve preventive health outcomes. She has a background as a school social worker and researcher in community-based early childhood programs.

Prior to her doctoral training, Sarah served as a project coordinator supporting Kansas Part C early intervention programs and school-based autism teams. In this role, she led the development and implementation of statewide initiatives designed to improve access to timely autism identification and diagnostic services, helping connect children and families to needed supports earlier in development.

Sarah has contributed to NIH- and IES-funded studies on language and social-emotional development, including PC TALK, PRISM, and MIECHV initiatives. She is currently involved in the Talk With Me Baby clinical trial, with a long-term goal of leading translational research that transforms pediatric preventive care by embedding developmental and relational health promotion into routine practice.

JOIN US!

September 10th
1:00-2:30 PM

REGISTER NOW

Training for KPATA Members





SSI Training

SAFE SLEEP INSTRUCTOR (SSI) CERTIFICATION TRAINING

THE KANSAS INFANT DEATH AND SIDS (KIDS) NETWORK IS PLEASED TO INVITE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, EDUCATORS, CHILDCARE PROVIDERS, PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATES TO APPLY FOR THE SAFE SLEEP INSTRUCTOR (SSI) CERTIFICATION TRAINING.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN WICHITA, KS:
SEPTEMBER 24–25, 2026**

[DOWNLOAD LETTER](#)



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Training Opportunity

TRAINING
OPPORTUNITY

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGES & STAGES QUESTIONNAIRES (ASQ)

Course will meet online and is FREE
to attend.



FRIDAY
7 AUGUST 2026



TIME
01:00 PM-3:00 PM



REGISTER

Provided by:

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

Bright Futures Program Meeting

Join us at the
**Bright
Futures
Program Meeting**

September 24th, 2026

1:00pm - 2:30pm

Please note: Attendance is required for programs participating in Bright Futures. If you are unable to have a representative from your program attend, the meeting will be recorded for later viewing.

[Register Here](#)



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



KPATA Board Member Spotlight

I am the Executive Director of The Family Resource Center in Pittsburg, Kansas, where I oversee two childcare/preschool sites along with 13 additional programs through the Early Childhood Block Grant that supports young children, families, and early childhood professionals throughout Southeast Kansas. I am also a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) whose career has included leadership roles in early childhood, K-12 education, child welfare, behavioral health, and higher education, including serving as an Assistant Principal and as an adjunct instructor for the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. My passion is bringing people and organizations together to expand access to quality early childhood programs, strengthen family supports, and create more inclusive communities for children. I value collaborating with professionals across Kansas to share ideas, build partnerships, and improve services for children and families.



I became involved with KPATA because of how important parents are in helping their children communicate, heal, and build healthy relationships. Throughout my career in schools, behavioral health, and early childhood, I've had the opportunity to work alongside professionals from many different disciplines and have seen the lasting difference that early intervention and prevention can make in a child's life, recognizing that parents are the child's first teacher! I believe the earlier we can identify concerns and provide support, the better the long-term outcomes for children and families. Being involved with KPATA was really an asset because it allows me to continue learning from colleagues across Kansas, while also supporting families and high-quality services throughout the state.

I think KPATA makes a meaningful impact by helping professionals not only support children, but also empower parents and caregivers with knowledge and strategies they can use every day. When families understand their child's development, recognize developmental milestones, build on their child's strengths, and learn ways to support their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth, they are better equipped to help their children succeed not only when they become school-age, but throughout life. KPATA creates lasting skills and confidence that strengthen families over time and by investing in both early childhood professionals and families, KPATA helps build stronger families and healthier communities across Kansas. **KPATA.ORG | PAGE 10**

KS Home Visiting Conference

Registration Open!

KANSAS HOME VISITING CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

What's New This Year?



A New \$25 Registration Fee:

To help us sustain the high quality of this annual event, we are introducing a nominal registration fee of \$25 per attendee. We deeply appreciate your understanding and support as we make this transition!



Flexible Group Registration:

To make things easy, you can register yourself individually or sign up your entire team at once! Just make sure to have your credit card ready when checking out.

Event Schedule & Logistics: 9/22/26

- 8:30 AM – Doors open & registration begins (A light continental breakfast will be served!)
- 9:00 AM – Conference officially kicks off
- 12:30 PM – Lunch is on us! (Provided for all attendees)
- 3:30 PM – Conference concludes



MULTIPLE LOCATIONS



9:00AM - 3:30PM



SEP 22, 2026

[REGISTER HERE](#)

*Check your
email for
additional
details!*



Parent Leadership Conference Registration Open!



Registration is now Open!

REGISTER HERE



PARENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2026

Resilient Families. Healthy Futures

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2026**

9:30AM – 5:30PM

**1ST METHODIST CHURCH
SALINA, KS**



**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

National Breastfeeding Month



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

**AUGUST IS
NATIONAL
BREASTFEEDING
MONTH**



**CHECK OUT AND SHARE THESE
UPCOMING RESOURCES!**

2026 KANSAS BREASTFEEDING CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15 & 16

DRURY PLAZA HOTEL

[REGISTER AND RESERVE YOUR HOTEL](#)

[BREASTFEEDING 101 / 201](#)

[AUGUST 20-21](#)

[ENHANCED LACTATIONS CLINIC SKILLS TRAINING](#)

[NOVEMBER 13](#)

[RETURN TO WORK TOOLKIT](#)



2026 KS PAT Educator of the Year

Congratulations

Melissa Lewis

USD 204 Bonner Springs/Edwardsville

2026 KS Parent Educator of the Year Nominees

Elizabeth Mercado
Davinya Hinojosa
Stephanie Taylor
Angelica Mitchell
Dana Fry
Maricela Hernandez
Anne Harris
Kim Newell
Martha Duran

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 10TH - ASD TRAINING
- 17TH - SAFE SLEEP TRAINING
- 18TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 24TH - BRIGHT FUTURES PROGRAM MEETING

