kpata
KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

NOVEMBER 2026





Election Day is

NOVEMBER 3RD



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November

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- TODAY, WE CELEBRATE THOSE WHO HELP BUILD STRONG FAMILIES AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES - ONE HOME VISIT AT A TIME. #PARENTSASTEACHERSDAY
- CHECK OUT THE PAT DAY TOOLKIT

November 1, 2026

Dear KPATA Members,

"Autumn shows us how beautiful it can be to embrace change and find strength in every season."
As we move into November, it's a good time to reflect on the importance of connection, collaboration, and supporting one another. The work we do to strengthen children and families is meaningful, but it can also be challenging. I hope this season serves as a reminder to extend the same encouragement, understanding, and support to one another that we so intentionally offer to the families we serve.

KPATA was busy with the following during October:

- Presenting at the PATNC Conference in Portland
- Attending the Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to share about PAT services
- Working to create new advocacy materials and educate about the importance of home visiting

As many of you are aware, November 8th is National PAT Day! If you haven't already, take a peek at the toolkit. It can be found here:



PARENTS AS TEACHERS DAY IS A CALL TO RECOGNITION AND ACTION. IT'S A DAY TO CELEBRATE THE STORIES AND MILESTONES THAT SHOW WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN WE INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AND HONOR THE LEADERSHIP OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS.

Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director

BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESSES

SUCCESS STORY

Mom shared that she has been packing to move into a new house with her mom, stepdad, and sister. We discussed ways to create safe areas in the home where [child] can move around freely, rather than relying solely on the crib for safety. Mom explained that she had been placing [child] in the crib to keep her safe while she worked around the house. After talking through alternative options, Mom created a safe space in her bedroom where [child] can move, explore, and remain protected. Mom reports that this new setup is working well and allows [child] more opportunities for safe mobility.

- **9 NEW REFERRALS**
- **74 ACTIVE REFERRALS**
- **39 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS**



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



KPATA Trainings

Training for KPATA Members

Sign Language for Children: Playful Communication for Every Day

Presented By: Hailey Brooks

IN THIS TRAINING, WE WILL EXPLORE HOW TO:

Use sign language to support communication for children with hearing differences, autism, speech delays, and other neurodevelopmental needs. Introduce sign language to families in a simple, encouraging, and effective way. Build stronger connections between children, families, educators, therapists, and service providers. Access resources, books, online learning opportunities, and tools to continue learning beyond the training. Understand research and evidence supporting the use of sign language as an early communication tool.



November 19th
1:00-2:00 PM

REGISTER HERE

What You'll Learn

- Why sign language benefits both hearing and non-hearing children
- Common signs and songs families can begin using immediately
- Strategies for incorporating signs into daily routines
- How sign language can reduce frustration and increase communication opportunities
- Real-life examples of working with families who use sign language for communication

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KPATA Trainings



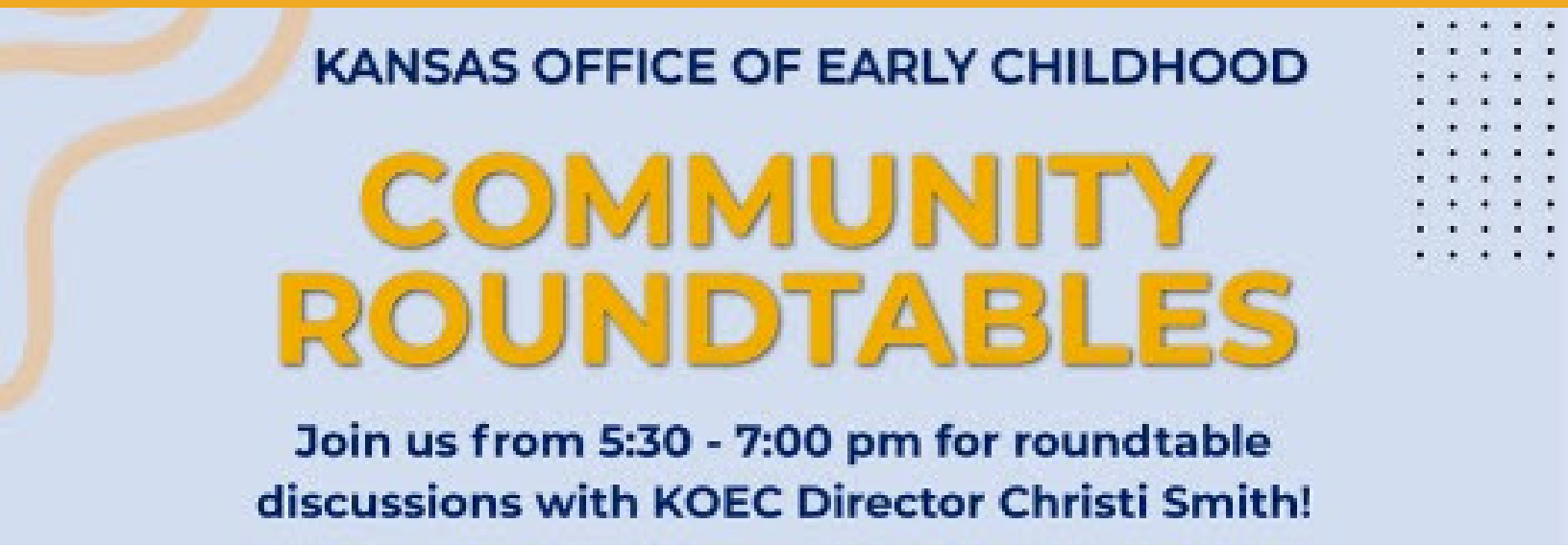
KPATA Trainings



Upcoming Safe Sleep Trainings



KOEC Community Roundtables



SHARE YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

THE KANSAS OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IS GOING ON THE ROAD!

JOIN KOEC DIRECTOR CHRISTI SMITH IN A REGION NEAR YOU FOR A CONVERSATION AROUND EARLY CHILDHOOD IN YOUR COMMUNITY. SHARE WHAT'S WORKING WELL, WHAT CHALLENGES YOU ARE STILL FACING, AND HOW KOEC CAN SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN.

ROUNDTABLES WILL ALL BE FROM 5:30 - 7:00PM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- TUESDAY, 10/27 - OVERLAND PARK
- WEDNESDAY, 10/28 - GARDEN CITY
- THURSDAY, 10/29 - HAYS
- MONDAY, 11/2 - PITTSBURG
- THURSDAY, 11/5 - MANHATTAN
- MONDAY, 11/9 - TOPEKA
- TUESDAY, 11/10 - WICHITA
- THURSDAY, 11/12 - VIRTUAL

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED, BUT WALK-INS ARE ALSO WELCOME! CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP AND TO SEE THE SPECIFIC ADDRESSES FOR EACH ROUNDTABLE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO KOEC.INFO@KS.GOV.

Wheelchairs 4 Kids



WHEELCHAIRS 4 KIDS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WHEELCHAIRS 4 KIDS PROVIDES WHEELCHAIRS, HOME AND VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS, AS WELL AS OTHER NECESSARY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AT NO CHARGE TO THE CHILDREN WE SERVE THROUGH OUR LET'S ROLL PROGRAM. CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES FACE MANY OBSTACLES GETTING THE EQUIPMENT THAT THEY NEED: INSURANCE AND/OR MEDICAID MAY NOT COVER THE EQUIPMENT, THEIR HOME OR VEHICLE MAY NOT BE PROPERLY EQUIPPED FOR THEIR NEEDS, FAMILIES MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD THEIR COPAY, AMONG OTHERS. THESE OBSTACLES CAN LEAD TO UNSAFE CONDITIONS FOR THE CHILD AND THEIR CARETAKERS. WHEELCHAIRS 4 KIDS IS HERE TO HELP. ONCE THEIR REQUEST IS COMPLETE, THEY BECOME KNOWN AS ONE OF OUR "WHEEL KIDS"!

Presentation → **Website** → **Application** →

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



OUR WEBSITE CLICK OR SCAN

FACEBOOK CLICK OR SCAN

INSTAGRAM CLICK OR SCAN

Save the Date
KAIMH Conference 2027

IF YOU PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION, HOME VISITATION, EARLY EDUCATION, COACHING, INTERVENTION, RESEARCH OR CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR YOU!



Breastfeeding Message of the Month





UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- **19TH - SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING**
- **20TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING**

DECEMBER

- **7TH - SAFE SLEEP TRAINING**
- **18TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING**