



Kansas City KS Public Schools
Parents As Teachers
2010 N 10th St
Kansas City KS 66104



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Parents As Teachers
KCK Public Schools
2010 N 59th St
Kansas City KS 66104
913-627-4375



Parents As Teachers
Pitter Patter



**Thursday • March 27, 2014
6:30 to 7:30**

South Branch Library • 3104 Strong Ave • Kansas City KS

You're invited to a PAT Pajama Party! On Thursday, March 27th bring your little ones, dressed in their coziest "jammies", to the South Branch Library for an evening of bedtime fun! Your child may even bring their blankie, doll, or special stuffed animal "bedtime buddy".

We'll have a special storytime courtesy of the library staff, we'll share fun bedtime activities, and we'll enjoy a healthy goodnight snack. The KCK PAT Parent Educators will also have information on bedtime routines.

So that we can be sure to have enough materials on hand, please call 913-627-4361 if you will be attending the Pajama Party!

Get Ready To Graduate!



There will be a graduating ceremony on
Saturday, April 26, 2014
for families who have children that have turned
three years old while in
the program this school year
(July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.)

A letter will be sent to you with the place and time
of this event. Once you receive the letter,
please call
(913-627-4361) to RSVP.
Your immediate family and up to four
additional guests may attend.



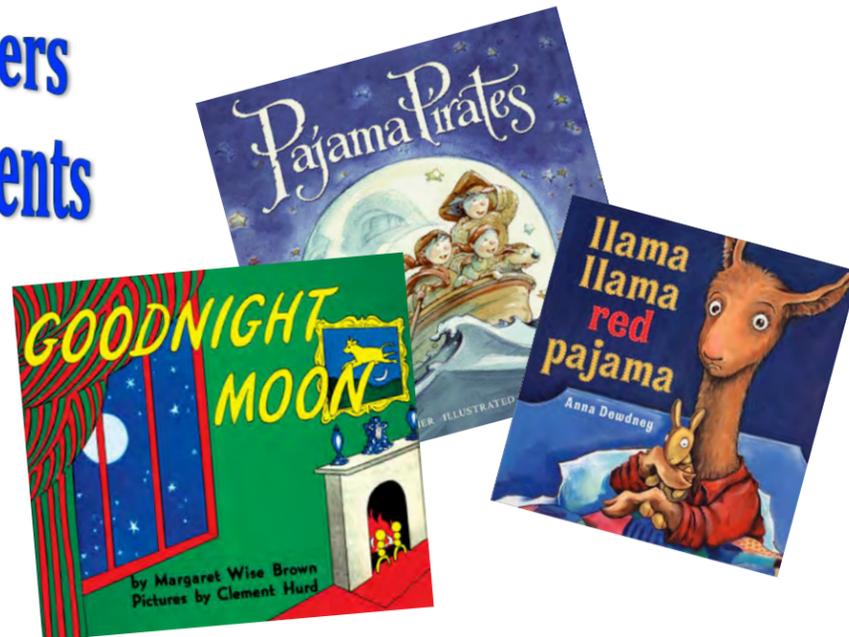
Themed Playgroup

Thursday PAT playgroups are themed playgroups. Each month focuses on a different topic and activities and handouts are planned around that topic. Children are asked to participate in a more structured environment by having set times for greeting & goodbye songs, free play, activities and snacks. Themed playgroup is a great way to introduce your toddler to some of the expectations of preschool.

March's theme is:	April's theme is:	May's theme is:
SEASONS	ART PLAY	PRETEND PLAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowflakes (Winter) • Rain Clouds (Spring) • Sunny Days (Summer) • Wind/Dry Leaves (Fall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playdough • Ball Painting • Brush Painting • Finger Painting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hats • Glasses • Costumes • Necklaces

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Free Play
10:35 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.	We say "Hello" and have Circle Time
10:55 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.	A craft or activity is shared.
11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	We read a special story
11:35 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	We wash our hands & have a snack
11:50 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.	We sing the Clean Up Song & put our things away
11:55 a.m. to 12:00 noon	We say our Goodbyes

Children become readers
On the laps of their parents



Just For Dads 5 Ways To Be A Great Dad Today



BEING A GREAT DAD DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DIFFICULT. THERE ARE FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TODAY:

1) LOOK AT YOUR CHILDREN AND CALL OUT THEIR BEST.

Be your kid's biggest fan. Your children are waiting for you to call out their best. They are waiting for you to give them praise and affirmation. Call out what they did right in their choices and actions. Call out what you like best about them. Call out the fact that you love them deeply.

2) LOVE YOUR CHILDREN BY TOUCHING THEM GENTLY AND SPEAKING TO THEM SOFTLY.

There is nothing so powerful as a father's touch. A soft and gentle touch - a hug, a kiss on the head - can make a child feel safe and secure.

3) LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE SAYING AND TO WHAT THEY ARE NOT SAYING.

Spend time listening to your children talk about their day. Ask them questions and listen to what they are not saying. Listening will only take a few minutes, but the impact will last a lifetime.

4) LEAVE A LEGACY BY GIVING YOUR CHILDREN A MEMORY.

Make a plan to do something simple but something that your children can always remember. Read the same story each night for a month, play a certain game each week, fix the same dinner or breakfast every Saturday.

5) LAUGH WITH YOUR CHILDREN.

Allow your children to find the joy in life that comes with innocence. Then laugh with your children in these moments and find the deepest joy that is known in the heart of a parent. If you take the time to love, laugh, look, listen, and leave a legacy—you will connect with your kids and be the dad they need and want you to be.

- See more at: <http://www.fatherhood.org>



Phone KanCare or contact your Parent Educator for more information and to request an application.

KanCare: 1-800-866-305-5147
www.kancare.ks.gov

Interpreters are available and applications are available in 10 languages.

What is KanCare? On January 1, 2013 Kansas Medicaid and HealthWave became KanCare.

KanCare is the State of Kansas' plan to improve services and manage Medicaid costs. There are three major programs for individuals and families who qualify:

- **KanCare under the Medicaid plan** - The largest program, this covers people with limited income, which may include pregnant women, children, persons with disabilities and senior citizens.
- **KanCare under the CHIP plan** - This is the Children's Health Insurance Program. It covers children up to age 19 who don't qualify for Medicaid.

- **MediKan** - The only program that is funded entirely by State funds. It covers people who are trying to get Social Security disability benefits.

All medical assistance programs provide prescription drugs, mental health services and medical (doctor) coverage. Inpatient hospital, hearing, dental, and eye-wear coverage is also included for most persons.

You may qualify for these programs if you are a Kansas resident and fall into one of these groups:

- Children up to age 19; including those in foster care or who get adoption support payments

- Pregnant women
- Persons who are blind or disabled by Social Security rules
- Persons 65 or older
- Low income families with children
- Persons screened or diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the Early Detection Works program.

Additional factors in considering eligibility include citizenship and immigrant status, income, other health insurance (if any), and the number of people in your household. Medical assistance is reviewed every year and you may be required to re-apply when it is time for your review.



Sibling rivalry: it's all in the family

IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE FIGHTING that sibling rivalry is a normal part of family life. In fact, this natural tension between brothers and sisters can help children learn how to negotiate, compromise and happily coexist—skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

This is a lifelong process and the key is for parents to help their children learn how to navigate through these small daily confrontations in a way that actually builds family bonds.

Before birth

- Encourage positive thinking well before the baby arrives. Focus on the child's important new role as an older sibling.
- Explain and actively demonstrate what sharing means by sharing food or a pillow or other appropriate items with your child.
- Create a sense of excitement around the baby's arrival; talk about all the fun things he will get to do with the baby, such as read to her or help fold the baby's clothes.
- Encourage your child to draw pictures or write stories about the new baby.
- Make sure your child has the opportunity to practice sharing and socializing skills with other children before a new baby comes along.

Infants and toddlers

- Create a calm, inclusive atmosphere for the new siblings and provide opportunities for them to bond.
- Make your older child feel important through positive feedback ("The baby just smiled at you! He thinks you are a great big sister.")
- Give your older child a special toy or doll to take care of so the child can model your nurturing behavior with the new baby.
- Let your child pick out the baby's clothes or do other small tasks to make her feel important and actively involved.
- When the older child inevitably acts up or misbehaves to get your attention, talk to the child calmly, reassure her and give a hug. Don't dwell on minor issues and resist the urge to overcompensate with attention or gifts.



Children

- As your children get older and have fights over toys or TV or other minor skirmishes, correct the misbehavior and then move on.
- Encourage the children to work out problems on their own, rather than expecting you to be a referee.
- Help them understand their feelings; help them understand the problem; help them come up with a solution.
- Reinforce good behavior: notice and celebrate sharing and compromising.
- Don't try to make everything equal between your children; instead recognize that each child is unique and work for balance among your individual relationships.
- Spend quality time with each child and make sure that time is customized to each child's individual interests.
- Make sure siblings have their own space so they can have time independent of each other, even if that space is just a corner of a room.
- Avoid motivations or disciplines that inadvertently create competition, for example, "Whoever cleans up first gets to pick tonight's book." Instead encourage a team effort: "If we all clean up, then we'll have time for a book tonight."

Adults

- Keep your perspective and a good sense of humor.
- Remember that, handled well, sibling rivalry can become the basis of family bonds that are resilient and enduring. ❖

PAT CALENDAR

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

PLAYGROUP ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

SPRING BREAK: NO PLAYGROUP 3/18/14 & 3/20/14

3/27: 6:30 PAJAMA PARTY AT SOUTH BRANCH LIBRARY



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

PLAYGROUP ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

KINDERGARTEN & PRE-SCHOOL ROUND UP 4/17/14, NO PLAYGROUP

4/17: 4:30 FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT BLOCKFEST AT KCKPS CENTRAL OFFICE



MAY HIGHLIGHTS

PLAYGROUP ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

5/13: 5:30 P.M. POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

5/26: HOLIDAY, OFFICES CLOSED



MARCH 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Playgroup	5	6 Playgroup	7	8
9	10	11 Playgroup	12	13 Playgroup	14	15
16	17 SPRING BREAK	18 SPRING BREAK NO PLAYGROUP	19 SPRING BREAK	20 SPRING BREAK NO PLAYGROUP	21 SPRING BREAK	22
23 30	24 31	25 Playgroup	26	27 PAJAMA PARTY Playgroup	28	29

APRIL 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Playgroup	2	3 Playgroup	4	5
6	7	8 Playgroup	9	10 Playgroup	11	12
13	14	15 Playgroup	16	17 BLOCKFEST PRE-K ROUND UP NO PLAYGROUP	18	19
20	21	22 Playgroup	23	24 Playgroup	25	26 PAT GRADUATION
27	28	29 Playgroup	30			

MAY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Playgroup	7	8 Playgroup	9	10
11	12	13 Positive Discipline Playgroup	14	15 Playgroup	16	17
18	19	20 Playgroup	21	22 Playgroup	23	24
25	26 OFFICES CLOSED	27 Playgroup	28	29 Playgroup	30	31



Discipline: What to do Instead of Spanking

Tuesday • May 13, 2014 • 5:30 p.m.

KCKPS Central Office • 2010 N. 59th St.

A light meal will be served

Reservation Required - Call 913-627-4361 to R.S.V.P.

Presented by Nona Boyd, BS, Parent Education Coordinator for Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, this special presentation will focus on parenting skills where participants will have an opportunity to:

- Observe (on video) and practice effective communication techniques that build self-discipline and self-esteem in children.
- See examples of ineffective and destructive discipline techniques.
- Practice ways to encourage and correct a

- child.
- Gain ideas for dealing with common misbehavior of young children--annoying habits, aggressive behavior, and problems with daily routines.
- Compare personal parenting practices with parenting we received as children.
- Share personal parenting and child care successes and challenges.

In order to take advantage of child care, your child must be walking. Space is limited to 20 children. We're sorry, but we are not equipped to provide care for infants.



APRIL 17, 2014 Preschool Roundup

is an early enrollment program for preschool students who are interested in attending any of the district's preschools during the 2014/2015 school year. Details are available by calling one of the preschool locations.

To qualify for enrollment, children must turn 4 years of age on or before August 31, 2014 and parents must meet one of the following criteria:

- English is not the primary language in the home
- Parent was a teenager when child was born
- Family qualifies for free or reduced meals
- Family is working with SRS
- Parent is enrolled in a migrant program
- Parent does not have a high school diploma or GED
- Parent is single
- Has a child who is developmentally or academically delayed based on assessments.

Parents are asked to provide a certified state birth certificate, current immunization records, a physical that is less than one year old and proof of residence.

Preschools are located at KCK Early Childhood Center (913-627-6590), Earl Watson, Jr. Early Childhood Center (913-627-0360), and Morse Early Childhood Center (913-627-6550).



On April 17th, with hands-on block play, we'll show you and your child how these versatile toys can help develop math skills such as grouping, sorting, adding, subtracting, using fractions and even understanding geometry.

We'll help you to use blocks to teach your child science concepts like gravity or balance. They'll develop social skills by sharing and cooperating. Blocks will help build strength in fingers and hands as well as develop eye/hand coordination.

NO SOCKS, NO BLOCKS: All participants must wear socks--no exceptions.

Be sure you and your child wear or bring a pair of socks!

Call our office at 913-627-4361 and let us know if you will attend.

We'll send you a packet of information ahead of time to help you and your child prepare for this fun evening.

BLOCKS ROCK!

FAMILY LITERACY AND PAT PRESENT

BLOCK FEST

APRIL 17, 2014

4:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

First Floor • KCKPS Central Office
2010 N 59th • Kansas City KS

• **A light meal will be served** •



SIX LEARNING DIMENSIONS OF A CARDBOARD BOX:

SPATIAL AWARENESS The first thing little kids do when confronted with a box is to get in it. Cute as this is, there's actually an important reason why they do this. It's called spatial awareness. Little ones spend a good deal of time getting to know their own bodies and with that comes the question "how big am I?" But, they're growing, so the answer to that question keeps changing. That's why kids are constantly testing their own size by crawling in, through, around, over and under things. Cardboard boxes are often the perfect size for this kind of spatial exploration.

COMFORT & SECURITY There's also an emotional component to seeking out small spaces. Right from the start children are soothed by a sense of being bundled up or embraced in mommy's arms.

EMPOWERMENT Imagine what it's like to

What Cardboard Boxes Can Teach Kids

--Adapted from: movingsmartblog.blogspot.com

Like red rubber balls and teddy bears, skipping rope, sticky fingers, boo-boo kisses, and nighty night tuck-ins, cardboard boxes are essential for little kids. Here is some information on why kids love cardboard boxes and why cardboard boxes are great for kids...

always be the smallest person in the room. Everything is sized for big people. In small spaces, kids feel *BIG*. Likewise, the light-weight construction of a cardboard box enables young children to move and manipulate an object that is bigger than they are. In other words, a cardboard box yields to their will.

CONTROL Cardboard boxes make ideal hiding places and kids love to hide. A hiding game may well be the first experience a child has with knowing something you don't know. Think about it. The hiding game usually begins with an impish grin as she ducks out of sight. Without even thinking about it, you join the game. "Hmmm. I wonder where Caitlin is? I can't see her. Is she under the pillow? No. Is she behind the couch? No. Hmmm. Is she on my head? No." Then comes the big surprise! "Here I am!" The tone in her voice let's you know she's got one up on you. What a powerful role reversal that is!

ASENSORY PLAY The humble cardboard box is a great example of an asensory environment. The brown color suggests nothing in particular; the smooth sides infer little. The cube structure defines empty space. This very lack of or subtle nature of sensory inputs is an essential contrast to the more powerful and deliberate stimulation we think of when we talk about "sensory play." This relief from the sensory world may explain, in part, why kids find the confines of a cardboard box so appealing.

IMAGINATION A cardboard box's very neutrality is the blank slate upon which children so easily imprint their imaginations. Much has been written about this, but the book *Not A Box*, by Antoinette Portis says all that needs to be said on the subject. Read the book with your child, get a box, and then encourage a few ideas. "I wonder what we could do with this big box? What do you think?" Your child's natural curiosity should take over.

