

## **Early Childhood Education**

### **Early Childhood Developmental Services (3 - 5 years old)**

#### Purpose

The purpose of Early Childhood Developmental Services is to provide an educational program of developmentally appropriate education services designed to meet the individual needs of children with special needs, ages three to five.

#### Screening

The purpose of screenings is to gather information about the child to determine the need for further diagnostic evaluation. Screenings are conducted monthly for children Birth through 5 years in the following areas: communication, cognition/pre-academic, social and emotional, self-help/adaptive, fine and gross motor, vision, and hearing.

#### Diagnostic Evaluation

The purpose of the comprehensive evaluation is to collect all information necessary to determine eligibility for and need for development of an educational plan. A multidisciplinary team conducts the evaluation.

#### Eligibility

Any child 3 to 5 years old who meets criteria determined by the State of Kansas based on results of the comprehensive evaluation and demonstrates the need for special education services is eligible for Early Childhood Developmental Services.

#### Service Delivery Options

Early Childhood Developmental Services can be provided through the following models: two, three, and four day classrooms, regular education early childhood settings, community-based early childhood classrooms, home setting, related services only, day care provider home, or combination model (classroom/itinerant/home-based).

#### Transportation

Transportation is provided at no charge to the family.

For more information about Early Childhood Developmental Services, please contact Atchison Elementary School at 913-367-1161 or [kari.kephart@usd409.net](mailto:kari.kephart@usd409.net).

### **State Pre-Kindergarten Program (4 year old)**

The purpose of the State Pre-Kindergarten Program is to provide a high quality early learning environment that will improve child skills and knowledge and support school readiness and school success for young children as they enter kindergarten.

Criteria:

- Poverty
- Single parent families
- SRS referral
- Teen parents
- Either parent is lacking high school diploma or GED
- Child qualifies for migrant status
- Limited English Proficiency
- Lower than expected Developmental Progress in at least one of the following areas:
  - Cognitive development
  - Physical development
  - Communication/literacy
  - Social emotional/behavior
  - Adaptive behavior/self-help skills

For more information about the State Prekindergarten Program, please contact Atchison Elementary School at 913-367-1161 or kari.kephart@usd409.net.

### **Parents as Teachers (Birth to 3 years)**

Parents as Teachers is a program serving families residing within the Atchison Public Schools district boundaries with children up to age three.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed. The mission of Parents as Teachers is to provide information; support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. Parents as Teachers shares that mission by providing established and emerging research-based information to parents to promote parent knowledge of early childhood development and best parenting practices, while understanding and appreciating the diverse cultures and traditions of families who reside within the Atchison Public School District boundaries.

In the first few years, children learn more and at a faster pace than at any other time in life. You help shape your child's future through the kinds of experiences you provide. Your baby was born to learn, and as a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a no-cost parent education and family support program serving all Atchison Public School District families throughout pregnancy until their child turns three.

Parents are supported by PAT-certified parent educators trained to translate scientific information on early brain development into specific when, what, how and why advice for families.

As a PAT family, you receive:

- Personal visits -- during which your parent educator will share age-appropriate child development and parenting information, help you learn to observe your child, and address your parenting concerns.
- Parent group meetings and playgroups-- which are opportunities to share information about parenting issues and child development. Parents learn and support each other, observe their children with other children and practice parenting skills.
- Screenings -- to assess your child's overall development as well as health, hearing and vision.
- Resource network -- that links your family to other community services.

By understanding what to expect during each stage of development, parents can easily capture the teachable moments in everyday life to enhance their child's language development, intellectual growth, social development and motor skills.

Atchison Public Schools Parents as Teachers program is working with parents to provide parenting support and information on their developing child. Parents as Teachers is designed to foster strong, loving relationships between parents and their children.

For more information about Parents at Teachers, please contact Cammie Braden at 785-876-2214 or [cbraden@keystonelearning.org](mailto:cbraden@keystonelearning.org).