



Parents as Teachers Program

The Granby Early Childhood Council (GECC) is pleased to announce our plan to implement a Parents as Teachers (PAT) Pilot Program in Granby in the near future. The PAT Born to Learn Program is an international award winning early childhood parent education and family support program designed to help all parents give their children the best possible start in life. This home/school/community partnership provides parents with information on child development, prenatal to age 5, and suggests learning opportunities that encourage emotional and intellectual growth, as well as physical and social development.

National studies as well as reviews of Connecticut Family Resource Center(FRC) programs show that families who participate in the PAT program gain knowledge about child development, increase their confidence in parenting, and become more connected in the community to resources and services. It has been demonstrated that PAT children are significantly more advanced in language, problem solving, social development, and other intellectual abilities and score higher on readiness tests and standardized measures through the early school grades than non-PAT children. In addition, this program has been instrumental in early identification of many children with developmental delays and in referring them for needed services such as Birth to Three.

What is the Born to Learn model?

The Parents as Teachers Born to Learn model consists of four service delivery components. While many programs adapt individual model components based on funding, all programs need to provide the four components of the Parents as Teachers *Born to Learn* model.

1. Personal visits - Personal visits (monthly, bi-weekly or weekly) are the primary service delivery component. During these visits, parent educators share age-appropriate child development information with parents, help parents learn to observe their child's development, address parenting concerns, and engage the family in activities that provide meaningful parent/child interaction and support the child's development.



2. Group meetings - Parent group meetings provide opportunities to discuss information about parenting issues and child development. Parents learn from and support each other, observe their children with other children, and practice parenting skills.

3. Screening - Parent educators are required to conduct annual developmental, health, vision and hearing screening for early identification of potential developmental delays and/or health, vision and hearing problems. Additional training is necessary to administer these screenings. As an alternative, a program may have other trained personnel or agency(ies) conduct the screenings. Regular review of each child's developmental progress identifies strengths as well as areas of concern that may require referral for follow-up services.

4. Resource network - Parent educators help families identify and connect with needed resources and overcome barriers to accessing services. Programs take an active role in establishing ongoing collaborative relationships with community agencies and organizations that offer additional family services.

Some programs may already have one or more of these four components in place and attend the Institute to learn how to implement the Born to Learn model and deliver the accompanying curriculum

Currently there is also information about the Parents as Teachers Program being televised on GCTV. We invite you to view local programming for further information, and to visit the Parents as Teachers website at:

<http://www.parentsasteachers.org/site/pp.asp?c=ekIRLcMZJxE&b=272091>

In addition, in the near future the Granby Early Childhood Council will be conducting focus group discussions around the topic of the PAT Program and a Family Resource Center. Notices of the focus group discussions will be published in the Granby Drummer, posted at the library, the YMCA and other locations in town and distributed through childcare providers in Granby. If you are interested in learning more about a Family Resource Center and the PAT Program, please plan to attend a focus group to have your questions answered and to offer your input. The GECC thanks you in advance for your time and for your willingness to participate in these important discussions.

To learn more about the PAT Program or the GECC, please contact:
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The core value that directs the work of the GECC is to ensure that “All children arrive at school healthy and socially and emotionally prepared for academic success and life-long learning.” The PAT Program supports the core value of the GECC, and we invite parents and other community members to learn more about this valuable program the GECC is working to establish in Granby.

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