



*Update  
January 2010*

### **Kansas Parent Research Initiative**

The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas has completed a year-long research study on parent involvement in Kansas early childhood programs. While early childhood and child welfare programs in Kansas have had some success in engaging parents at the State and program level, there remains a need for authentic parent involvement and leadership. Our systems must provide appropriate support and training to facilitate positive outcomes for children and families. Through the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan, a collaborative team identified parent involvement and leadership as a key focus area in 2009, and has partnered with Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grantees and the Kansas Strengthening Families Plan to conduct the Kansas Parent Initiative.

The Initiative was two pronged: 1) an environmental scan of the current status of parent leadership and parent involvement in agencies across the State (data gathered through agency survey), and 2) focus groups to gather input and support from parents in defining future roles and structure of parent leadership and involvement. Results include survey data from over 80 agencies in Kansas, data from 10 focus groups with over 100 parents, and discussion about what was found.

You can access the results from the study [here](#), or go to the “News” tab at [www.ksfplan.org](http://www.ksfplan.org).

### **Resources**

#### **New AAP Website for Parents**

The Administration for Children and Families Office of Head Start has created a new website designed to empower parents that is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The site includes information about ages and stages from prenatal through young adult. It also includes healthy living information (e.g., nutrition, fitness, sports, oral health, and emotional wellness), as well as safety and prevention information, health issues, news, and tips and tools. It also includes a place where parents can “Ask the Pediatrician” or “Find a Pediatrician.”

This site looks like a wonderful resource for families and providers. You can locate it at:  
[www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)

### **Free Online Course: Creating Effective Parent-Practitioner Partnerships**

The FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention is pleased to announce a new online course, *Creating Effective Parent-Practitioner Partnerships*, has been added to the FRIENDS Online Learning Center.

Parent Leadership is a strengths-based approach to family support that is founded on the belief that parents are knowledgeable about their families and communities and can provide valuable insight into programmatic and community decision-making to benefit children and families. Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Define the roles and list the benefits of parent leadership.
- Describe common fears and barriers of parent leadership.
- Explain basic principles and guidelines of parent leadership.

This course is being offered free of charge through the FRIENDS Online Learning Center. When you enroll in the course a discount code will automatically be applied and the registration fee will be waived. To learn more about the FRIENDS Online Learning Center visit [www.friendsnrc.org/resources/onlinelearn.htm](http://www.friendsnrc.org/resources/onlinelearn.htm) or go directly to the Online Learning Center at [www.cequick.com/myeln/FRIENDS/default.asp](http://www.cequick.com/myeln/FRIENDS/default.asp).

If you have any difficulties enrolling in the course please use the link “Contact our support team” on the left column.

### **Circles of Caring Video**

The West Virginia Prevent Child Abuse America Chapter has created a short video based on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors. It is a powerful combination of the recent Frameworks reframing research blended with the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) Protective Factors framework.

You can view the video on [YouTube](#).

If you would like to purchase a high-quality DVD, copies are available for the cost of duplication, (\$10-\$15 per DVD). For DVDs and additional information, you can contact [Jim McKay](#) at:

#### **Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia**

P.O. Box 1653  
Huntington, WV 25717-1653  
(304) 697-0340 office phone  
(304) 617-0099 cell  
(304) 697-0320 fax

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Reminder: Early Childhood PTA Conference**

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are not just for school-age families! Come learn about how

early childhood PTAs are working in communities around the state at the first ever Kansas PTA early childhood conference. In addition to sessions by national PTA and early childhood experts, CEO of the National PTA Association, Byron Garrett, will be facilitating a town hall meeting at the conference. Help contribute to the discussion on February 20, 2010 as you learn about a Kansas PTA that focuses on early childhood education.

- What: Early Childhood PTA Conference
- When: Saturday, February 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Where: Indian Creek Technology Center, 4401 West 103rd Street, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
- Who: Parents of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; school administrators; teachers and advocates for early childhood; PTA members interested in leader development. (Spanish language workshops will be available for all types of PTAs.)

Check the [Kansas PTA website](#) or contact [Debbie Lawson](#) (Kansas PTA President) or [Cynthia Jarrold](#) (Kansas PTA President-Elect) for more information.

### **Kansas Division for Early Childhood 28th Annual Conference**

The Kansas Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) is a subdivision of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the International Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). DEC is dedicated to promoting policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children with exceptionalities. KDEC is committed to providing early childhood professionals, students and parents a quality conference at an affordable rate. Register early and take advantage of the discounted registration fees.

- What: KDEC Early Childhood 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Meeting the Challenges—Early Childhood 2010
- When: February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- Where: Wichita Airport Hilton, Wichita, KS

Check the [KDEC website](#) for more information and to register for this conference.

### **Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities in Kansas**

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KSF partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KSF website and in the newsletter, the *KSF Update*. Send information to [hilharms@ku.edu](mailto:hilharms@ku.edu) or contact Hilary Harms Logan at (785) 864-6069.