

Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



Summertime Fun with STEAM Activities

The steamy days of summer deserve STEAM-y activities. The focus of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) is to encourage exploration, curiosity, and investigation into these fields. Parents, caregivers, and young people can learn together. These areas provide opportunities to play, learn, and build skills that may become lifelong passions. They are not separate, siloed disciplines. For example, in making a kaleidoscope, we learn about design concepts including measurements, assembly and construction, artistic composition, and science of light reflection. Kaleidoscopes produce wonder and awe in people of all ages. Parents and caregivers can plan STEAM

activities appropriate to their child's developmental level.

STEAM activities encourage critical thinking: Why? What would happen if...? Will the same thing happen each time? Critical thinking skills are required in family life and the work world. People who can use curiosity to examine the "rules" (such as gravity) and "think outside the box" (What would it take to defy gravity?) make a difference in our world. Creativity in problem solving makes a difference in our everyday life as well. For instance, what non-dairy products can be used to make mashed potatoes? Ultimately, the critical thinking skills involved in STEAM extend to all facets of our

lives and can help us consider our experiences in the context of: "What happened? What have I learned? What different approaches can I use in the future?" which may build resilience.

There are online resources that provide activities that focus on developing a scientific approach, exploring cause and effect, thinking creatively, and building skills for infants, toddlers, and school age children. Many local public libraries host STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and STEAM activities for children and their families. Check your local library for schedules. In addition, connecting with other families to learn together and carry out activities builds social connections.

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Sources of information and activities to explore

Head Start's ECLKC (Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center) contains articles, videos, and lessons about STEAM and STEM for young children of all abilities.

Left Brain Craft Brain collects STEAM posts and activities. They are organized by the senses: See, Feel, Smell, Taste, Hear.

The Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM asserts that: "Using STEAM education results in students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process." While designed for a K-12 school audience, it has many concepts that are applicable to understanding STEM and STEAM for everyone. A short section discusses the distinctions between STEM and STEAM and highlights through a lesson example how the arts can be integrated into a STEAM lesson.

Little Bins for Little Hands focuses on STEAM activities for children. One summertime fun idea discussed in the article is how to make a kaleidoscope. You can explore the website for more ideas.



Family Support Webinar

SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, Sept. 7
10-11:15 a.m. (EDT)



PENNSYLVANIA
Parents as Teachers®

Welcome to our monthly article to commemorate the 30th anniversary of PA PAT. This month we will focus on improved school outcomes.

Here is a research article that you may find helpful in understanding the connection between PAT and improved academic outcomes, school behavior, and parenting skills.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home-visiting Intervention: A Path to Improved Academic Outcomes, School Behavior, and Parenting Skills

Findings indicated that compared to the non-PAT control group, the PAT student group performed better in terms of reading and math achievement and had a significantly lower rate of absenteeism, in-school-suspensions, and out-of-school-suspension. Further, PAT parents showed increased scores on parenting measures at post-test relative to pre-test. Taken together, findings indicate that participation in the PAT program is a viable means for improving child academic outcomes and school behavior and improving parenting behavior. Implications for future research are discussed.

[Read article >>](#)

Source: Children and Youth Services Review, April 2019

Welcome to the NEW Children's Trust Fund Cohort 30 Grantees!

Cohort 30 grantees will serve families from July 2022 through June 2025. Their work is aimed at supporting families to build the protective factors that keep their families strong and result in optimal child development. The organization solicits input from families about operation of the program and work with other organizations in the community to provide seamless, accessible services for families.

Four organizations will implement the Parents as Teachers (PAT) evidence-based home visiting model:

- Child Care Consultants, York County.
- Jim Thorpe Area School District, Carbon County.
- Maternal and Child Health Consortium (with an emphasis on father engagement), Chester County.
- The Learning Lamp, Fayette County.

Three organizations are expanding their services through new programming:

- Columbia County Family Center will implement Triple P for families with elementary age children.
- Family Services Association of Bucks County will implement Nurturing Parent and 24-7 Dad with Spanish-speaking families.
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium will expand the Nursing-Legal Partnership.

Family Support Team

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children's Trust Fund grantees, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

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Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers

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Children's Trust Fund

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Safe Kids Corner



Skating and Skateboarding

Skating and skateboarding can increase balance, agility, coordination, and reaction time. It's also pretty fun. With plenty of practice and these safety tips, your kids can roll smart and safe.

The Hard Facts

More than 80,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for skateboard-related injuries every year. Skateboarding injuries can range from mild to life-threatening. Skateboarders have been killed by head injuries and collisions with cars.

Top Tips

- **Every skater should wear a helmet.** Wrist guards, knee pads, and elbow pads are a good idea for everyone, but especially for beginners. Mouth guards are good protection against broken teeth.
- Children should ride on smooth, dry surfaces located in a well-lit area away from traffic.
- Teach children to check skates and boards for problems before each use. If there are any cracked, loose, or broken parts, the item should not be used until it is repaired.
- Teach children to minimize the impact of a fall by crouching down as they lose balance to reduce the distance to the surface.

Source: [Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

Parents as Teachers Online Courses

Foundational 2: 3 Years Through Kindergarten

No courses are scheduled for August through October. This is subject to change.

Monday, Nov. 28 – Friday, Dec. 2

Foundational and Model Implementation

For new parent educators and new supervisors of affiliate programs

Monday, Sept. 12 – Friday, Sept. 23

Monday, Oct. 17 – Friday, Oct. 28

Monday, Nov. 7 – Friday, Nov. 18

Register for courses at the National Parents as Teachers' [training website](#). Questions regarding registration for PAT trainings? Contact [Jennifer Esposito](#).