

# Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



## Going Above and Beyond: Using CQI to Improve Support for Families

Now that the 2024-2025 program year has ended, family support program staff are taking the time to carefully review their data and reflect on progress and opportunities for growth. Family support programs often use a strategy known as Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) to identify what has worked and where there may be possible gaps, to build a stronger program. CQI can help program staff tailor support and strengthen practices that will support family well-being.

Through CQI, teams can review service delivery trends, family feedback, and outcome measures to better understand what was done well and what can be improved. This annual review of data is not just numbers and percentages on a piece of paper; it's a chance for program staff to celebrate their successes and set goals for the next program year ahead.

In addition to data review and reflection, there are many things that family support programs can do to make informed decisions about their program for the coming year. Program staff can complete the Plan Do Study Act Cycles (PDSA Cycles), which is where the staff will focus on a specific item, track the progress, and make changes where necessary. This process helps the staff improve a specific outcome through experimentation. Other types of CQI strategies include team-based case reviews, staff and family feedback, dashboard and performance monitoring, and outcome evaluations.

When determining a focus for CQI, there are some important things to consider during the process. Family support staff should start small and focus on one topic. Program staff should be sure to incorporate their data tracking systems in the process. Staff should also be

trained in the CQI process and CQI tools. Include families in the process and seek their feedback regarding your CQI focus. Lastly, be sure that CQI is embedded in your program's culture. This can be done by adding CQI to the staff meeting agenda and discussion.

As programs continue to serve families, CQI has been an important approach to ensuring and enhancing responsive and effective services. By incorporating data driven decision making and collaborative problem solving into everyday practice, programs are better able to meet the needs of families and have an impact on the community.

### Online Resources for Family Support Programs

- [Start Early](#)
- [FRIENDS National Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention](#)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)

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**This article was prepared with summary information from ChatGPT. Its cited sources include:**

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## Parents as Teachers Place

Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC) has released its [2025-2028 Strategic Framework](#). In what ways do you see the PATNC values and goals in your organization's work? As the PA PAT State Office Advisory Committee works to complete its next workplan, what are the elements of the Framework that we could focus on to support your work?

Collecting data for the Affiliate Performance Report can serve as a reminder of milestones the organization met in the past year and provide an opportunity celebrate! It may also bring up stories that parents and caregivers have shared about the impact of the program in their lives.

[Share those stories with the PATNC story collector.](#)

### New Access to Foundational 2 Curriculum!

As of July 1, all individuals with a current curriculum subscription (curriculum subscriber or model certified) have access to additional resources—the **Foundational 2 Curriculum: 3 Years Through Kindergarten** and the **Foundational 2 Workspace**.

This marked the beginning of an effort to better support services to families across the early childhood continuum; the culmination of which will include the launch of a new content platform and the rebranding of curricula to Born to Learn® in late spring of 2026.

The Foundational digital books have not moved, so those with new access can locate the Foundational 2 Curriculum in the Parents as Teachers portal through either the "Curriculum Access" tab or the Foundational Workspace in O.L.I.V.E.R.

Support resources at the Foundational 2 tab include:

- Announcement blog on the home page (new)
- Foundational 2 Curriculum overview video (new)
- A Closer Look at Activity Pages video
- Activity Pages: 3 Years Through Kindergarten (new)
- Resources such as "Titles and Pages Numbers" and "help" documents

Foundational 2 Curriculum parent handouts and activity pages in English and Spanish have also been added to PAT Engage for model affiliates using the app.



## Safe Kids Corner: Boating Safety Tips

### How to Wear a Life Jacket

**Wear a [U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket \(Personal Flotation Device \(PFD\)\)](#) when boating.**

Choose a life jacket that is right for your child's weight and water activity. For younger children, choose a PFD with both a collar for head support and a strap between the legs.

**Keep weak and non-swimmers in PFDs while on docks and marinas.**

Swimming aids and water toys, such as water wings and inflatable water rings, do not prevent drowning.

**Make sure life jackets are the right fit for your child.**

[Watch this video to learn how to fit a life jacket.](#)

### How to Teach Your Child to Swim in Open Water

**Teach children how to swim.**

Every child is different, so [enroll children in swim lessons](#) when they are ready. Consider their age, development, and how often they are around water.

**Make sure kids learn these five water survival skills.**

1. Step or jump into water over their head and return to the surface.
2. Turn around in the water and orient to safety.
3. Float or tread water.
4. Combine breathing with forward movement in the water.
5. Exit the water.

**Teach children that [swimming in open water](#) is different from swimming in a pool.**

Be aware of situations that are unique to open water, such as limited visibility, depth, uneven surfaces, currents and undertow. These potential hazards can make swimming in open water more challenging than swimming in a pool.

**Use designated swimming areas and recreational areas whenever possible.**

Look for posted signs about open water hazards. Also look for signs that say when lifeguards will be present.

### Learn Water Rescue Skills

[Learn CPR](#) and basic water rescue skills.

It is important to know how to respond in an emergency without putting yourself at risk of drowning. Learning these skills may help you save a life.

### Learn About Available Boating Safety Resources

**Follow the U.S. Coast Guard recommendations for boating safety.**

Learn about available boating resources, such as free vessel safety checks and boating safety courses.

**Learn national boating laws and regulations.**

The U.S. Coast Guard has information about [federal regulations](#) and [state regulations](#).

Source: [SafeKids.org](#)



## 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 Children's Trust Fund](#)

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### **Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities**

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[CenterForSchoolsAndCommunities.org](http://CenterForSchoolsAndCommunities.org)

# Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Corner

The Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance offers many resources about families. The organization provides the mandating reporting course as well as many prevention resources. [A positive message to share with families may be found on their website.](#)

From the Casey Family Programs, read about [The Community Opportunity Map](#) and the work you might do in your community to build partnerships with systems and residents to create safe, healthy communities that promote family well-being.

## Parents as Teachers Core Course

### Foundational and Model Implementation

September 8 – September 19 | 9:00 AM

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

[Register for FMI September Course](#)

### Foundational

September 8 – September 16 | 9:00 AM

Instructors: Terry Wertman, Bethany Smith

[Register for FND September Course](#)

## Family Support Webinar

### Creating HOPE and Building Protective Factors

**August 6 | 10:00 AM**

We can build HOPE when we implement a strengths-based approach that identifies and promotes access to key Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) that support children to grow into resilient adults and can mitigate the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

We will review research about the impact of PCEs and how that research led to the development of the HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) framework. We will consider how programs and communities can use the Building Blocks of HOPE and the Strengthening Families Protective Factors to support thriving, strong, HOPE-ful children, families and communities.

[Register for Creating HOPE webinar](#)