

# PAT Alaska

**A Special Feature with Information on Parents as Teachers (PAT) Involvement and Early Childhood Development**

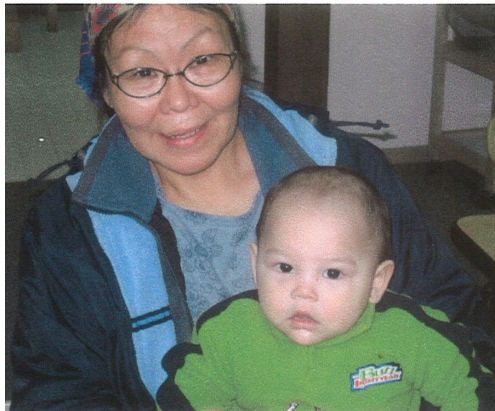
**Update**

## Parents as Teachers Curriculum and The Basis of Literacy

As a parent or caregiver, you help shape your child's feelings about reading and writing. Parents also help teach their children skills, which are needed for success in school.

**Reading and Writing-where do they begin?** Reading and writing may even begin before birth with the parents and caregivers in a child's life. The skills for reading and writing start with every day activities like:

- Mom and Dad talking to them
- A child seeing a parent read a book, a magazine, or the paper
- Parents reading to their child
- Parents writing lists, notes, letters
- Parents saying new words that describe what their child is seeing, feeling, touching, smelling or tasting
- Parents asking and answering questions



**These parent and child activities help children learn:**

- How to speak their native language
- How to rhyme words
- How to listen to each other
- How to talk to others (conversation)
- How to hold a book
- How to see and understand words around them in books, on signs, and on cereal boxes, etc. (For example: "golden arches"=McDonald's)
- How to talk about pictures in books
- How to scribble and draw
- How to learn the ABC's and the sounds they make
- How to tell the difference between letters and pictures

A project by Dr. Harriet Shaklee, University of Idaho, showed that the Parents as Teachers lessons and handouts help parents teach their children what they need to learn to read and write.

### Parents as Teachers

A fun, early learning program for soon-to-be parents and parents with children up to five years of age.

### Research Shows:

PAT children outscored their peers on measures of school readiness and later school achievement.

PAT children were more advanced than other 3 year-olds in language and social development, problem-solving, and other intellectual skills.

PAT children performed better than non-PAT children in elementary school.

PAT parents took a more active role in special education; lower incidence of abuse and neglect.

### What We Do:

Personalized home visits with a certified Parent Educator, trained in child development, who is eager to help parents give their children the best beginning.

Family Play Times where families can learn new things about children, parenting and share experiences with other parents.

Regular Developmental Screenings to ensure children's development is on track and to detect possible delays.

A Resource Network that can help parents find services in their community, if needed, that are beyond what PAT can do.

### How to Contact Us:

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