

PATSCH WORK

The Official Newsletter for the Parents as Teachers and SafeCare at Home (PATsCH) Project

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Welcome to the PATsCH Work Newsletter!

With our PATsCH project in full swing, the Georgia State University Research Team wanted to find a way to bring together all of our PATsCH sites and share all of the terrific work that is being done. Thus, "PATsCH Work" was created!

Big thanks!

Given the wide "geography" of all the PATsCH sites, the research team relies extensively on the work of local data collectors to conduct the assessments in North Carolina. We also rely extensively on our Graduate Research Assistants at Georgia State University to help us with the assessments in Georgia. Without the work of these data collectors, we would not be able to collect the data needed for our study. Please join us in a big thank you to:

Abby Smith
Alena Barosa
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Chris Jones
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"...We really believe in the project and want a chance to really get families involved and be able to provide you with the impact and data that you need to support what we all suspect – it is very effective when combined with PAT." - Vanessa Arnold (K.A.R.E.)

PATSCH is a research study conducted by the Center for Healthy Development in the School of Public Health at Georgia State University and in collaboration with the PAT National Office. The study is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.



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The PATSCH Network

PATSCH is a unique project, not only because it brings together two evidence-based parenting programs, but also because it joins together Parent Educators, sites and researchers across many states. Get to know the rest of the PATSCH Network!



Beaufort-Hyde Partnership for Children

Located in “little” Washington, NC, the Partnership provides services to children in Beaufort and Hyde counties and has done so since 1996. PAT only one of many services offered to local families. The Beaufort-Hyde Parent Educators are providing additional PATSCH services to interested families.

Catawba County Schools—Early Head Start

A part of the North Carolina Early Head Start Association located in Hickory, NC, the Catawba EHS program provides no-cost, home based services (including PAT) to families in the county. Families in the Catawba County program are a part of the PATSCH Control group.

Children & Family Resource Center

Committed to connecting parents to early childhood resources, the CFRC located in Hendersonville, NC are currently providing additional PATSCH services to interested families. Over its more than decade of service, the CFRC has served over 6,000 children and families each year.

Community Partnership of Elbert County

This three member team has served the families of Elbert County for more than ten years. Located in Elberton, GA the CPEC provides literacy programs and PAT to families in need. Elbert County families are receiving additional PATSCH services if they are interested. Should you find yourself in Elberton, make sure to check out the Granite Bowl (high school football stadium made of all granite) and the Granite Museum!

Easter Seals UCP of NC and VA

The New Bern, NC Easter Seals outpost and their families are serving as members of the PATSCH control group. In line with the Easter Seals mission, the Parent Educators in New Bern provide a vast array of services to a diverse group of families.

Jackson County Family Resource Center

Serving families since 1996, the Family Resource Center’s goal is to increase the number of healthy families and children in Jackson County in conjunction with facilitating personal development. Located in Webster, NC, the staff of the Family Resource Center and their interested families serve as a control site for the PATSCH project.

Why 2 groups?

By: Megan Graham

You may be wondering why the PATSCH research study has two different groups: control sites and PATSCH sites. The research project is designed as a randomized controlled trial study, meaning that one group of PAT parent educators provides the intervention (braided PAT and SafeCare sessions) and the other group continues services as usual. This dichotomization allows the research staff to draw conclusions as to the impact of the intervention on family outcomes.

Who was picked to deliver PATSCH?!

Once the PATSCH team finalized the list of PAT sites that would participate in the study, they randomized sites to either the control group or PATSCH group. Each site name was placed into a bowl and drawn out to determine their participation. The project currently has five sites in the control group and six sites in the implementation group.

Upon completion of the study those sites that provided PAT services as usual will have the opportunity to be trained in SafeCare and deliver the braided program to their families as well!



How PATSCH Came to Be

By: John R. Lutzker, Ph.D.

SafeCare® originated in Southern Illinois in 1979. My intention was to provide a mechanism for families at high-risk for child maltreatment to learn core skills that would reduce that risk.

Over three decades later, our mission remains the same. Across 15 states, the UK, Spain, Belarus, and Canada, SafeCare teaches high-risk families core skills in home safety, child health, and parent-child interactions.

Like any model developer, I am continuously exploring ways to improve SafeCare and to widen our dissemination. In 2009, Roberta Malevenda (the former PAT State Leader of Georgia) approached the National SafeCare Training and Research Center with an idea to combine SafeCare and PAT.

Given that some of you are now implementing our braided curriculum, PATSCH, you know the rest of the story.

I think this effort that all of you are a part of, is an essential step forward for SafeCare and PAT, but also for the field home visiting. By combining practices to best meet the needs of the families we serve, the benefits will no doubt be long lasting.

Kids Advocacy Resource Effort (K.A.R.E.)

Located in Haywood, NC, K.A.R.E. has been serving local families for more than 20 years. In addition, they are a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center. Through their PAT program (since 2001) they serve approximately 60 families each year. The Parent Educators in Haywood are providing additional PATSCH services to interested families.

Prevent Child Abuse Habersham

Believers in true prevention, the Parent Educators of PCA Habersham (located in Cornelia, GA) provide long-term family support to a diverse group of families through their PAT program funded by the Governor's Office for Children and Families since 2007. In addition to PAT, the organization also delivers the First Steps program and is active in the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children programs. PCA Habersham serves as a control group for the PATSCH project.

Rockingham County Partnership for Children

North of Greensboro in the rural town of Reidsville, NC the RCPC provides a variety of services to families and children including, but not limited to: Young Mom's Connect, Reach Out and Read, and, of course, PAT. The three Parent Educators of Rockingham County are providing PATSCH sessions to interested families.

Sampson County Partnership for Children

Located in Clinton, NC the SCPFC's Parent Educators are Early Head Start Home Visitors who also deliver PAT. Notably, the SCPFC's team serves a significant number of Spanish-speaking families — the most in the PATSCH project! The Parent Educators are delivering PATSCH sessions to interested families.

Sheltering Arms Educare of Atlanta

Located just a few miles from Turner Field in Atlanta, GA, the Sheltering Arms Educare site is just one of many outposts serving the families of the Metro-Atlanta area. Housed within Dunbar Elementary school, the Parent Educators of Sheltering Arms work with families with children as young as a few weeks through school age. Interested Sheltering Arms families are serving as a control group for the PATSCH project.



Join us at the PAT National Conference

The 2013 PAT National Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia this year October 2nd—4th at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis hotel. The theme for this year's conference is "Invest In..." — your participation in PATSCH, you all have made an investment and as such, we feel the theme of the conference this year is all the more relevant.

We are thrilled to share that the GSU Research Team has been selected to present on PATSCH on Thursday October 3rd. Our presentation, "Creating Sustainable Partnerships to Meet the Needs of High-Risk Families," will highlight the work you all have been doing and the partnerships needed to make our effort successful.

Although you already know about all the good work you've done as a part of the PATSCH Team, we would love to have you join us for our session!

PATSCH Networking Session

It's not every day the PATSCH team is in the same place (let alone the same state). We would love the opportunity to get together and talk with all of you. Please shoot us an email and let us know when and if you are coming to the Conference. We will coordinate a time and location based upon the number of us that will be able to get together.

Still need to register for the PAT National Conference?

There is still time!

Click [here](#) to register or visit the PAT National website at:
www.parentsasteachers.org



Parents as Teachers

Contact Us

Give us a call or email us any time with questions or concerns.

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We want your input!

It is our hope to distribute project related newsletters, PATSCH Work, every two months or so. The goal is to share lessons learned from the field, highlight great work being done with families, and to detail our progress to date.

To do this, we absolutely need your help. We want PATSCH Work to be a collaborative product between everyone involved in PATSCH — Parent Educators and the Georgia State PATSCH Research Team!

Additions from the field

Do you have questions for other Parent Educators? Suggestions to share with other Parent Educators? Ideas for the research team? Challenges that you have creatively overcome? A great success story with one of your PATSCH families?

We want to hear it and share with the entire PATSCH network!

Please send your contributions to the PATSCH Work Newsletter to Kate at kquastafarro1@gsu.edu.