

# PARENTS AS TEACHERS

August and September 2025



## WELCOME BACK!

We are excited for the events planned in the upcoming program year! With school now in full swing, we will resume daytime playgroups starting August 20th.

We have a few exciting changes this year. Our playroom will now be located in a different space within the Cedar Trails Exploration Center—still in the same building, but now on the second floor.

Because of this change:

- Wednesday morning playgroups will take place in the playroom, with fun themes that rotate each month.
- Friday groups will focus on gross motor activities in the CTEC Gym.

You'll find a full calendar of events included in this newsletter so you can plan ahead—we can't wait to see you there!

## CHECK IN PROCEDURES

Families will still enter the building through the front. During morning group times we will have a Parent Educator greet you at the door for the first 30 minutes - after 9:30 you will need to bring your driver's license and check in through the office. Evening groups will have a Parent Educator at the entrance for check in.

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- Page 1: Welcome Back
- Page 2: Upcoming Events and Activities
- Page 3: August and September Calendars

## KANSAS EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS

Did you know that Kansas has Early Learning Standards, and our PAT groups are designed to support your child's development by addressing these important guidelines? This month, we're focusing on one key standard called **Approaches to Learning**, which helps children become confident problem solvers and enthusiastic learners.

On page 2 of the newsletter I will talk about key ideas within this standard and how parents can best support problem solving at home. For a full list of the Kansas Early Learning standards please visit the Kansas State Department of Education or click [HERE](#).

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# PAT GROUP EVENTS

## Wednesdays:

9-10:30 we will meet in the PAT playroom at Cedar Trails Exploration Center: 8201 Mize Blvd. Children will receive problem solving activities to take home during these events:

- August 20th
- August 27th
- September 3rd
- September 10th
- September 17th

If you arrive after 9:30 please bring your drivers license and check in through the office.

## Evening:

We typically have one evening or weekend event a month. In September we we will explore problem solving activities **September 23<sup>rd</sup> 5-7 pm**. Children will receive a problem solving activity kit to take home with them.

## Fridays:

9-10:30 we will meet in the CTEC Gym and once a month at a community location.

- August 22nd - Treasure hunt at the Erfurt Splash Park (24135 W. 71<sup>st</sup> street)
- August 29th - CTEC Gym
- September 5th - CTEC Gym
- September 12<sup>th</sup> - CTEC Playground (East side of the building)
- September 19th - CTEC Gym



# ENCOURAGING PROBLEM SOLVING

## What is "Problem Solving"?

This area of development focuses on how children engage with new ideas and challenges. It includes curiosity, persistence, creativity, and the ability to try different ways to solve problems. When children develop these skills, they learn to think flexibly, ask questions, and keep trying even when things are difficult.

## Key ideas to explore:

- Encouraging curiosity and excitement about learning new things
- Supporting your child's efforts to try different solutions
- Helping children develop patience and stick with activities
- Celebrating creative thinking and flexible problem-solving

## Tips to encourage problem-solving at home:

- Ask open-ended questions: Try asking, "What do you think will happen if...?" or "How could we solve this?"
- Encourage trial and error: Let your child try different approaches and reassure them it's okay if the first try doesn't work.
- Provide materials for creative play: Blocks, art supplies, puzzles, and household items are perfect for exploration.
- Celebrate effort, not just success: Praise your child's persistence and creativity, even if the outcome isn't perfect.
- Model problem-solving: Talk through how you solve problems in everyday life to show your child how to think through challenges.

We're excited to support your child's growth in these skills and look forward to sharing more progress with you throughout the month! [HERE](#) is a video of additional activities you can do at home!

# PAT CALENDAR

## August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Srim Party 6:50 8:50 PM Splash Core
5	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	15	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	21	22 Group 9 10:50 AM Splash Pad	25
24	25	26	27 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	28	29 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	30

## September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
51	1	2	5 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	4	5 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	6
7	8	9	10 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	11	12 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC Playground	15
14	15	16	17 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	18	19 Group 9 10:50 AM CTEC	20
21	22	25 Group 5 7 PM CTEC	24 No Group - School Closed For Parent Teacher Conferences	25	26	27
28	29	30				