

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

October, 2025



OCTOBER NEWS AND UPDATES

October is filled with fun opportunities for families to learn, play, and celebrate together. Our daytime groups will meet on Wednesdays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, children and parents will explore early literacy skills through exciting camping-themed activities. Fridays bring special events, including time in the CTEC gym on October 10 and 24 where children can move, climb, and play while building their gross motor skills. We also have a trip planned to Shaake's Pumpkin Patch, and on October 31 we will celebrate Halloween by attending the City of Shawnee Spook Fest (registration required).

In addition to our daytime activities, families are invited to an evening Trunk or Treat event at Cedar Trails Exploration Learning Center on Tuesday, October 28, from 4:45 to 6:45 p.m. Children are encouraged to dress up and enjoy trick-or-treating with the Early Childhood staff. The event will take place in the parking lot behind the school by the playground, and if the weather does not cooperate, we will move the activities indoors. More information about time and location details can be found later in the newsletter.

It's shaping up to be a wonderful month, and we look forward to seeing you at these events!

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PAT GROUP DATES

- October 1st 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 3rd - 10-11 at Shaake's Pumpkin Patch
- October 8th 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 10th - 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 15th 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 22nd 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 24th - 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 28th - 4:45-6:45 Trunk or Treat at CTEC
- October 29th 9-10:30 at CTEC
- October 31st - 10-12 SpookFest at the Shawnee Civic Center

Contact Information:

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ctec.usd232.org/parents/parents-as-teachers

PAT CALENDAR

October 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1  Group 9-10:30 CTEC	2	3  Shaakes Pumpkin Patch 10-11	4	5
6	7	8  Group 9-10:30 CTEC	9	10  Group 9-10:30 CTEC Gym	11	12
13	14	15  Group 9-10:30 CTEC	16	17 No Group- School Closed	18	19
20	21	22  Group 9-10:30 CTEC	23	24  Group 9-10:30 CTEC Gym	25	26
27	28  Trunk of Treat 4:45-6:45pm CTEC	29  Group 9-10:30 CTEC	30	31  Spookfest Shawnee Civic Center 10-12		

This Month's Focus: Early Literacy Skills

This month, our Parent as Teachers groups are focusing on early literacy—the building blocks children need before they start formal reading and writing in school.

During group, we'll explore these skills with a fun camping theme—campfire storytelling, reading in a tent, making camping journals, and even having a scavenger hunt.

Early literacy isn't just about knowing letters. It's about:

- **Talking and Listening:** Building vocabulary through conversation.
- **Learning How Books Work:** Understanding that print carries meaning.
- **Playing with Sounds:** Hearing rhymes and syllables in words.
- **Understanding Stories:** Remembering and retelling events.
- **Early Writing:** Using scribbles, drawings, and letters to share ideas.

Can't make it to group? Try these ideas at home:

- **Campfire Storytime:** read a story together under a blanket "tent."
- **Rhyme Hunt:** Say a word like "star" and invite your child to think of rhyming words.
- **Outdoor Writing:** Bring paper and crayons outside. Ask your child to draw something they see, then help label it with words.
- **Story Retelling:** After reading a book, ask: "What happened first? What happened next?" Acting it out makes it even more fun!

Every time you **talk, sing, read, write, and play** with your child, you are strengthening their early literacy skills. Whether you join us in group or try these activities at home, your child is building the foundation for lifelong learning!

EVENT INFORMATION

JOIN US ON FOR
PAT DAY AT

The Schaake Family Pumpkin Patch

October 3rd

10:00 – 11:00 AM

1791 N 1500 Road
Lawrence KS 66046



TRUNK or treat

Please join us for a
Spook-Tacular evening

28 October

Costumes are encouraged

EVENT LOCATED IN THE BACK
PARKING LOT AT CTEC

Sensory Friendly is
4:45-5:15

General Admission is
5:15-6:45

Candy Donations are
welcome. Drop them
off in the office.

SPOOK FEST

Dress up in your favorite costumes and join
us for a frightfully fun time as we trick-or-
treat, hunting for treasures and goodies.

For Children 5 and under

- TRICK-OR -TREATING
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- BIG GREEN BLOCKS
- CRAFTS
- CUPCAKE DECORATING
AND MORE!

\$5
OCTOBER 31
10-12 PM
AT THE SHAWNEE
CIVIC CENTER

REGISTER OVER THE PHONE AT
913.631.5200 OR [CLICK HERE](#)



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

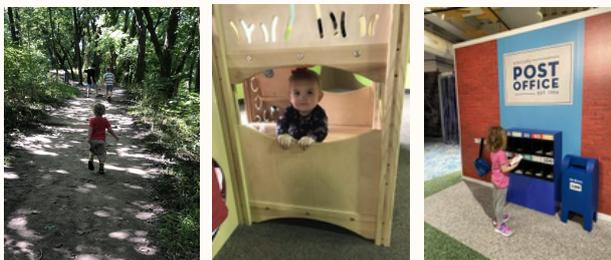
Saying Goodbye to the Pacifier: a Gentle Guide to Weaning

Children's Mercy Parent-ish Vlog



50+ Free Fall Activities In Kansas City

by the Kansas City Mom Collective



Riverfest Park • DeSoto • 33440 W 79th Street
Oct 18. • 4-6 PM • Free!

Activities:

- Trick-or-Treat Trail (through the forest)
- Facepainting
- Free hamburgers & hotdogs
- Games
- Crafts
- Pumpkin patch
- Selfie station/ fall-themed photo area



<https://www.desotoks.us/408/Halloween-at-the-Fest>

happybottoms™

diapers for families in need

Nearly 1 in 2 families with young children do not have enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry and healthy. (The National Diaper Bank Network Diaper Check 2023) HappyBottoms wants to change that. Since 2009 we have been covering the amount of diapers a family is short each month, known as the diaper gap, in the Kansas City Metro Area.

At Happy Bottoms, our mission is to collaborate with the community to empower, connect and impact families by alleviating diaper need.

Happy Bottoms has outreach events and locations around the metro area where families can receive up to 75 diapers per child each month. For more information about resources or donations please visit their website at <https://happybottoms.org/>

