

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hello PAT families,

We are excited to welcome you to the 2026-27 PAT program year. Our parent educators are back from summer break and looking forward to resuming home visits and playgroups this month. Your educator will be sending you a link to 2 developmental screening tools. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete these as they provide valuable information to you and your parent educator as they plan your visits.

This summer, a grant from the Kansas Department of Education gave us the opportunity to send a team of parent educators to the Conscious Discipline Institute in Orlando. The week-long institute teaches parents and educators practical, brain-based strategies to help children feel safe, manage their emotions, and develop lifelong skills through connection, consistency, and positive relationships. Our theme for this year...

“Your calm is contagious. So is your chaos”

...is a reminder that our state dictates our child's state and that our children cannot regulate in the presence of a dysregulated adult. Therefore, the first practice is to learn ways for us, as adults, to stay regulated, which can be hard as we navigate the challenges of life and parenting. Thankfully, Conscious Discipline gives us the neuroscience and tools to equip us in this work. Each month I will focus on one tool in my monthly newsletter, and as time allows, your parent educator will weave these tools into your home visits. We know that when kids feel safe (both emotionally and physically) and connected to their grownups, they are more able to learn and willing to cooperate, and who wouldn't want a little more cooperation! We are excited to navigate this journey with you.

Please take a few minutes to read through the newsletter, as we have included a lot of information about our playgroups and other upcoming group connections.

We are so excited to see you!

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator
Blue Valley Parents as Teachers



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER PLAYGROUPS

We're excited to welcome families back to the BV PAT playroom!

Playgroups are a fun way for children to play, learn, and make friends while parents connect with other families.

Playgroups meet once a week for **3** weeks, and each group will be limited to 10-18 children.

You may sign up for **one in August and one in September** of the following playgroups:



- Baby Play
- 1-Year-Olds
- 2-Year-Olds
- Multiage (1's & 2's)
- Saturday
- Evening



AUGUST Playgroup SIGN-UP link: [click here](#)

SEPTEMBER Playgroup SIGN-UP link will be emailed on **SEPTEMBER 1st**

NO Playgroups the week of September 7th - 11th

Please note:

- One adult may attend with each child. A grandparent or nanny is welcome to attend in place of a parent.
- No siblings are allowed in Baby, 1-Year-Old, or 2-Year-Old playgroups. Siblings under 36 months may attend the Multiage, Evening, and Saturday playgroups. Non-walking babies are always welcome.
- A valid state-issued photo ID or passport is required to enter any Blue Valley building. Please bring it each time you attend.
- Strollers and car seats are not allowed in the playroom. Please carry or wear your baby when not playing on the floor.
- If a playgroup is full, join the waitlist. Waitlisted families receive priority registration the following month.
- If **two** consecutive sessions are missed, your spot will be offered to the next family on the waitlist.
- Please stay home if you or your child is feeling ill.

BABY PLAY

Tuesdays 9:15-10am:
August: 8/18, 8/25 & 9/1
Sept: 9/15, 9/22 & 9/29

Thursdays 12:15-1pm:
August: 8/20 & 9/3
NO Baby Play on 8/27
Sept: 9/17, 9/24 & 10/1

1-YEAR-OLDS

Wednesdays 10:15-11am:
August: 8/19, 8/26 & 9/2
Sept: 9/16, 9/23 & 9/30

Thursdays 9:15-10am:
August: 8/20, 8/27 & 9/3
Sept: 9/17, 9/24 & 10/1

2-YEAR-OLDS

Tuesdays 10:15-11am:
August: 8/18, 8/25 & 9/1
Sept: 9/15, 9/22 & 9/29

Wednesdays 9:15-10am:
August: 8/19, 8/26 & 9/2
Sept: 9/16, 9/23 & 9/30

EVENING

Wednesday 5:30-6:15pm:
August: **NO** playgroup
Sept: 9/2

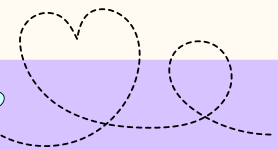
1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

(For children 9 to 36 months of age &/or families with more than one child under 36 months)

Thursdays 10:15-11am:
August: 8/20, 8/27 & 9/3
Sept: 9/17, 9/24 & 10/1

SATURDAY

Saturday 9:15-10am:
August: 8/15
Sept: TBD



Hello PAT Families!

Do you have a child aging out of the PAT program and looking to stay connected?? Do you love the playroom and connecting with other families, and want the opportunity to have some "bonus" playtime throughout the year?

Join the PTA! For **\$30**, your membership will cover additional playgroups, music sessions, and help support our teachers/parent educators throughout the year.

Your membership is good **through June 2027!**

[Click here](#) to fill out the form and remit payment.

Are you a parent who loves to give back and is looking for a way to do that from the comfort of home with a laptop/device during naptime? I am a PAT Mama, and currently serving as the Vice President.

Our PTA could use your help!

- **Outings Coordinator** - plan an outing once a month (you could easily use ideas from this year as a starting point!)
- **Touch a Truck Coordinator** - this is sponsored by PAT each Spring (you would work with Michelle Kelly on this!)
- **Stock the Breakroom** - create a fall & spring signup genius (make sure our staff/therapists and parent educators have snacks to keep them going!)

[Click here](#) to learn more about those opportunities or any others.

Please reach out to me with any questions!

Kristen Byers: parentsasteachersvp@gmail.com



ASQ'S

YEARLY DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS (ASQ's)

If you have not had a chance to complete your child's Developmental Screening for the year please [click here](#).

Once you get to the website select "I am completing both the ASQSE2 and ASQ-3 Questionnaires" to begin. Thank you!



COMING SOON!

OUTDOOR EXPLORE

Join us in September as we explore the outdoor space at **Hilltop Learning Center** (7700 W. 143rd St.)! The play area will be open from **9:30–11:00a, Date: TBD**

We're planning lots of fun activities, including tricycle riding, "car" washing, painting with water, and blowing bubbles. These activities are best suited for children 12 months and older. It will be a morning of family fun—a chance to meet other families while giving your child the opportunity to run, jump, climb, balance, swing, slide, and crawl as they explore the fabulous playgrounds at HLC.

Bring water for your family; please note that no food is allowed on the playgrounds. We also ask that you keep personal items in your car.

This is a drop-in event, so no sign-up is required—just come and enjoy some outdoor fun with us!



DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

With local funding from the Kansas Children's Cabinet, all families in Blue Valley are now eligible to participate in **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**. The program is free and will send your child a new book each month.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books, free of charge, to children from birth to age 5, funded by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Republic of Ireland.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started her Imagination Library in 1995 for children within her home county. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 2 million free books each month to children around the world.

Follow the steps to register your child by [clicking here!](#)

