

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Family engagement is the process used to build genuine relationships with families. Relationships with families support overall family well-being and children's healthy development. When families are engaged, partnerships are created that have a common focus— helping children grow and thrive. Family engagement happens in the home, within early childhood programs, schools, and the community. It is a shared responsibility of all those who want children to succeed in school and in life. Family engagement is based on the idea that parents and others who care for their children work together to prepare children for success. The specific goals of the partnership for each family may vary and can depend on family preference, culture, and economic or social stresses. A true partnership honors a family's strengths and culture, mutual respect, and shared goals for the family and child.

PURPOSE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to bring to attention the importance of family engagement within the Westerly Public Schools Parents as Teachers program and to highlight the many strategies we use to promote family engagement.

PROMOTING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN THE WPS PAT PROGRAM

- **Personal Visits**: Nationally certified Parent Educators share research-based information and use evidence-based practices by partnering, facilitating, and reflecting with families. Parent Educators use the Parent as Teachers curriculum in culturally sensitive ways to deliver services that emphasize parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting, goal setting and family well-being. These visits take place primarily in the home, but can also be completed using a virtual platform to accommodate enrolled families.
- **Group Connections**: Group Connections are intentionally planned events where families can interact with one another, form support networks and share common experiences. Formats include family activities, presentations, cultural celebrations and community events which are planned at least monthly by Parent Educators. WPS PAT Group Connections occur both in person as well as virtually. See WPS PAT Group Connection Calendar 2020/2021 below.
- **Playgroup**: Enrolled families are invited to attend weekly playgroups with their children. These playgroups are located in a classroom setting at Springbrook Elementary School and are designed to support children's socialization and school readiness. In addition, Parent Educators encourage connections between parents and caregivers during playgroups.
- **WPS PAT Resources**: The WPS PAT program partners with local organizations to provide various items to interested families periodically throughout the year. For example, WPS PAT Parent Educators frequently make deliveries of books, meals and vegetables grown locally at the Tower Street Community Center's Garden.

- **WPS PAT Virtual Facebook Group:** The WPS PAT Virtual Facebook Group is a private page for enrolled families that is updated daily by Parent Educators. This page is designed to provide families with parenting education and information, activity ideas, live Group Connections, story-time and information regarding community events and resources in between visits.
- **PAT Parent Satisfaction Survey:** The PAT Parent Satisfaction Survey engages parents and families in an evaluation of their program experiences annually. This survey is offered to families in English, Spanish and others as needed and can be distributed to participants using both paper format as well as an online version which can be emailed or texted to families for completion. The purpose of this survey is to help our program understand what families think about the services they have received including personal visits, group connections, screenings and overall experiences. It is one way to gather information directly from participants and can help the WPS PAT program make decisions about how to better meet the needs of the families we serve.

WPS PAT GROUP CONNECTION CALENDAR 2020/2021	
October 2020	
5	Small Adventures starts M & W 1:30
16	Outdoor Adventure at Wilcox Park
12 or 13	Laura Rivas Comes to Visit
21	Heritage cooking with Fano family
November 2020	
On-going	Small Adventures
1	5210 with Cindy Buxton
6	Rain Date - Outdoor Adventure at Wilcox Park
TBD	Prenatal Yoga
December 2020	
On-going	Small Adventures
14	Holiday Breakfast ZOOM
18	Sing Along with Music Together
January 2021	
On-going	Small Adventures
	Infant Massage
	MORGAN
February 2021	
On-going	Small Adventures
12	Chinese New Year
	DANIELLE
March 2021	

On-going	Small Adventures
April 2021	
On-going	Small Adventures
May 2021	
On-going	Small Adventures
	Virtual Trip to the Farm
June 2021	End of Year Celebration & K transition