

November 21, 2014

Dear PAT Contact:

The Early Learning staff participated in a presentation at the PAT national conference that was an overview of the new Foundational 2 Curriculum: 3 years to Kindergarten. This curriculum is a continuation of the Parents as Teachers approach for those serving families with children ages 3 to 6. This is an exciting extension to the curriculum piece that programs across the state are currently using to provide services to families with children under the age of 3.

Since the release of the new curriculum DESE has received questions regarding services to families with children in kindergarten. The ECDA funds that support PAT services in Missouri are for families with children not attending kindergarten. The new curriculum does offer school districts an opportunity to expand existing services to families with kindergarten age children utilizing other funding sources.

We are so excited to see and hear about the new curriculum released by the Parents as Teachers national office and look forward to hearing from programs as they transition from the Born to Learn 3 to K to the new Foundational 2 Curriculum: 3 years to Kindergarten. If you would like additional information regarding the curriculum you may refer to the October 2014 PAT eNews or the PAT national office website <http://www.parentsasteachers.org/training/foundational-2-curriculum>.

Here are just a few reminders that programs need to consider as services are being provided.

1. Only children not attending kindergarten are eligible to be reported for funding through the ECDA funding.
2. The Early Learning staff participated in the September PLC's and presented information to programs identifying three goals for programs:
 - Increase the intensity of services to all families;
 - Increase the number of families identified as meeting 2 or more high need characteristics; and
 - Increase the number of children under the age of three who receive a developmental and health screening.
3. Additional information will be sent out at a later date regarding these goals.

4. Recently posted on the Early Learning website is two Q&A's that are located under the Frequently Asked Questions heading. It is recommended that each program review these documents to ensure compliance and accurate reporting.

Thank you to all of the programs and their staff for facilitating partnerships with Missouri's young families. We know that strong relationships with families early provide great opportunities for children's success in the future. Please visit our website for additional information regarding PAT, Missouri Preschool Program (MPP) and the Conference on the Young Years (CYY). We anticipate registration information for the 2015 Conference on the Young Years will be available mid-December.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Anne Ralston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Anne Ralston
Director, Early Learning