

Approved 2/22/89
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don E. Crumbaker at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~xxx~~ a.m./p.m. on February 16, 1989 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representatives Flottman and Lowther, excused.

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Dale Dennis, Department of Education
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff
Ms. Jan Zander, Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council
Ms. Lila Paslay, Association for Retarded Citizens of Kansas
Ms. Connie Hubbell, State Board of Education
Ms. Doris Bettinger, Goals for Salina
Ms. Tanya Channell, Elementary School principal, Hays
Ms. Jeanette Tauscher, Parents as Teachers Program, Hays
Dr. James Thompson, Superintendent, Blue Valley Schools, USD #229
Dr. Michael Slusher, Superintendent, Leavenworth, USD #453
Dr. Robert Hale, Superintendent, Turner Schools, USD #202
Ms. Mary McCallister, Kansas Action for Children
Mr. John Pierpont, Children's Youth Advisory Committee
Mr. John Wine, Governor's Commission on Children & Families
Mr. Jim Coder, Governor's Commission for Education for Parenthood
Ms. Marlene Merrill, Kansas Association of School Psychologists
Mr. Robert Barnum, Social & Rehabilitation Commissioner of Youth Services
Mr. John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards
Mr. Charles Stuart, United Schools Administrators
Ms. Kay Coles, Kansas National Education Association
Ms. Kathryn Dysart, Wichita Public Schools, USD #259

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Crumbaker.

The chairman opened hearings on HB 2218, an act concerning school districts; authorizing the development and operation of parent education programs; providing for grants of state moneys therefor to selected school districts.

The chair recognized Representative Pottorff for the bill presentation.

Representative Pottorff explained HB 2218 saying it would establish a Parents as Teachers Program designed to help parents give their children the best possible start in life and lay the foundation for later school success. Representative Pottorff referred to the successful Parents as Teachers Program already in progress in Missouri. (Attachment 1).

Ms. Jan Zander urged the passage of HB 2218 which would implement Parents As Teachers in Kansas. Ms. Zander noted the six pilot projects that have been set up through a grant from Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. (Attachment 2)

Ms. Lila Paslay spoke in support of HB 2218. Ms. Paslay said passage of this bill would enable school districts to utilize parents who are one of the best resources for educating preschool children. (Attachment 3)

Ms. Connie Hubbell recommended the favorable passage of HB 2218. Ms. Hubbell said the program provided for in HB 2218 would help eliminate some of the problems that at risk children experience. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

room 313-S Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on February 16, 1989.

Ms. Doris Bettinger spoke in favor of the Parents as Teachers Program contained in HB 2218. Ms. Bettinger pointed out the many benefits from the program and stressed it was a cost effective program.

Ms. Tanya Channell testified in favor of HB 2218 both from the viewpoint of an elementary school principal and as a "later in life" mother. Ms. Channell praised the Parents as Teachers Program that she had access to as a means of renewing her parenting skills. She pointed out the value of such a program for young parents who lack proper parenting techniques.

Ms. Jeanette Tauscher testified in favor of HB 2218 and gave instances of feedback from parents who had been involved in the Parents as Teachers pilot program in Hays. (Attachment 5)

Dr. James Thompson testified in behalf of HB 2218 and urged the committee to support the bill. Dr. Thompson stated adoption of the Parents as Teachers program in the State of Kansas would help enhance learning potential and diminish possible development problems in young children. (Attachment 6).

Dr. Michael Slusher spoke in favor of HB 2218. Dr. Slusher stated his belief that implementing the Parents as Teachers program would promote a greater cooperation between school and families. Dr. Slusher said the program was not expensive and had great potential to relieve the burden on other state agencies.

Dr. Robert Hale testified in support of HB 2218. Dr. Hale cited excerpts from a report of the Child Care Task Force in Kansas City and pointed out child care has become an essential component of our economic infrastructure due to the dramatic increase in the number of single parent and working couple families. (Attachment 7)

Ms. Mary McCallister urged favorable consideration of HB 2218. Ms. McCallister feels the ounce of early prevention provided by HB 2218 could avoid many future problems for children who are the potential victims of abuse and neglect. (Attachment 8)

Mr. John Pierpont urged passage of HB 2218. Mr. Pierpont believes the Parents as Teachers Program is a social service program that does work and should be implemented in our schools to work on behalf of Kansas children and families. (Attachment 9)

Mr. John Wine testified in favor of HB 2218. Mr. Wine pointed out the Parents as Teachers program is tailored to the needs of the community and is free of the stigma sometimes attached to social services. (Attachment 10)

Mr. James F. Coder testified in favor of HB 2218. Mr. Coder pointed out the summary of all parenting education programs now in place in Kansas (Attachment 11). Mr. Coder believes HB 2218 will be one step toward helping our children become wholesome, capable and productive adults. (Attachment 12).

Ms. Marlene Merrill spoke in support of HB 2218 stating parenting education is of paramount importance for preventing child abuse and preventing future learning problems in the offspring of these early teen parents. (Attachment 13)

Mr. Robert Barnum recommended passage of HB 2218. Mr. Barnum feels a universal parent education program would be an important primary prevention measure. (Attachment 14).

Chairman Crumbaker announced three more conferees who had testimony in support of HB 2218 who had agreed to submit their written testimony to expedite the conclusion of the meeting: Mr. John Koepke, (Attachment 15) Mr. Charles Stuart, (Attachment 16) and Ms. Kay Coles, (Attachment 17). Ms. Kathryn Dysart also went on record as favoring HB 2218.

Rep. Pottorff thanked the conferees for appearing on behalf of HB 2218 and gave recognition to the school board members who were present.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,
room 313-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on February 16, 1989

A short time of discussion followed .

Hearings on HB 2218 were declared closed by Chairman Crumbaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 20, 1989 in Room 519-S at 3:30 p.m.

DATE February 16, 1959

GUEST REGISTER

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Eldon Riffel	USD 481	Hope, Ks

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Christy Winblad	USD 465	Winfield

DATE 2/16/89

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Leonard Steiner	USD 470	Ark City
Lyke Springer	USD 446	Independence
Bob Wells	USD #271	Stockton
Leo Kellman	"	"
LARRY Stamper	USD 270	Plainville
Jeanette Sausher	#1 KCPCA	Hays
Dorothy Chomrell	USD #489	Hays
Marlene Merrill	Kansas Assoc. of School Psychologists	Topoka
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Laurie Dennis	Topoka, Ks.	
Ruth Kasperstein	" "	
Reg Dinklap	Topoka K-NEA	Topoka, KS

STATE OF KANSAS

JO ANN POTTORFF
REPRESENTATIVE, EIGHTY-THIRD DISTRICT
6321 E. 8TH STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67208-3611

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 181-W
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HB 2218



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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AGAINST THE STATE
NCSL ASSEMBLY ON THE LEGISLATURE
TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION
EDUCATION CONSOLIDATION AND
IMPROVEMENT ACT (ECIA) ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

February 16, 1989

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Jo Ann Pottorff and I am here to testify on HB 2218 Parents as Teachers Program.

The Parents as Teachers Program is a home/school partnership for all parents of children from birth to age three. It is designed to help parents give their children the best possible start in life and lay the foundation for later school success. Practical information is provided to families on monitoring and fostering their child's early development.

The parents' project is based on the idea that a great deal of important learning takes place during the first three years of life and that home is the first school house and parents are the first teachers. If parents are adequately prepared for and supported in their role as teachers, they will have a better chance of doing the job well.

Through regularly scheduled home visits by trained parent educators, parents receive information on:

- 1) What to expect at each phase of development from birth to age three.
- 2) How to encourage language and thinking abilities through everyday experiences.
- 3) How to make and choose toys that stimulate curiosity and creativity.
- 4) How to foster social development.
- 5) How to discipline without punishing.

Group meetings are also held with other parents to provide opportunities to gain new insights, as well as to share concerns and successes in parenting.

*Attachment 1
House Education 2/16/89*

During the program the child's progress is monitored by parents and educators to detect/treat any emerging problems which might interfere with learning.

Although Parents as Teachers is fundamentally an early education program, it has many additional benefits for parents, children, schools, and society. Early detection and attention to potential learning problems can reduce the need for later remedial or special education. Support provided for parents of young children tends to make the parents job less stressful, thus helping to reduce child abuse and neglect. Parents are helped to obtain needed services not provided directly by the program.

Research has shown that the most rapid period of human development occurs during the earliest years--a time when parents are forming and cementing their approaches to child rearing. Up to this time little support or systematic information on the day-to-day aspects of shaping another human being has been available to parents who want the best for their child. PAT can provide the practical information that families need to monitor and foster their child's early development.

It is especially significant that this hearing is being held in conjunction with the Kansas Association of School Boards. In December at the annual convention of the Kansas Association of School Boards, Debbie Murphy was one of the Keynote speakers. At that time Ms. Murphy shared with the school board members the success of the Parents as Teachers program in Mission.

In closing I would like to leave you with this thought by Dr. Burton White, who said "You get more information with your new car than you do with your new baby".



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February 14, 1989

The Honorable JoAnn Pottorff
Kansas House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 181W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Pottorff:

I sincerely regret that I am unable to be present for the hearing on February 16 on House Bill Number 2 regarding implementation of Parents as Teachers programs in Kansas.

As one who has nurtured the Missouri Parents as Teachers program since its inception in 1981, I am proud to see the program taking root across the nation, and in other countries as well. As our PAT children enter kindergarten, we can begin to see evidence of the program's impact that extends beyond age three. From the outset of Parents as Teachers we envisioned the following benefits:

Children

Positive self-esteem.
Enhanced socialization skills.
Greater achievement over time.

Parents

Successful parent-child bonding.
Helpful teaching skills.
Early partner in education.
Increased confidence in the parenting role.

Teachers

Students more receptive to learning.
Interested and committed parents.

Schools

Early and continuing school support from parents.
Reduced cost of remedial education.
Higher long-range academic achievement.

Society

Cost effective investment.
Socially responsible citizens.
Improved public education.

Quoting from Jerome Kagan:

Parents affect their children in subtle and complex ways. During the first half-year, the infant born to parents who have not attended college is not very different from the one born to parents who graduated from college. Yet, by age six, the differences between the two youngsters are dramatic. Something has happened in the intervening years to produce the divergent psychological profiles; it is likely that the reasons for the differences at age six lie with family experiences. (*The Nature of the Child*; Basic Books, 1984)

a-1-3
2/16/89

Pottoroff
February 14, 1989
Page 2

We in Missouri believe that empowering parents as first teachers is one of the wisest investments we can make in families and schools. Not all teachers are parents, but all parents are teachers.

It is indeed gratifying to see the initial Parents as Teachers programs in your state being well received and to learn of the growing statewide interest and initiative in program expansion. Please let me know how we can further assist and support your good effort in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Mildred Winter

Mildred Winter
Director of Programs

MW/lr

Enclosure

a-1-4
2/16/89

The Home-School Partnership That Works!

Parents As Teachers Services...

A New Era in Education

Parents As Teachers

- Helps parents give their children the best possible start in life, laying the foundation for later school success.
- Is a flexible program for all parents.
- Has been found to be highly effective. An independent evaluation showed that participating children:
 - Were significantly more advanced in language development than other 3-year-olds.
 - Had made greater strides in problem solving and other intellectual skills.
 - Were further along in social development than their peers.
 - Demonstrated competencies that are predictive of and essential to later school achievement.

The Parents As Teachers Program is voluntary and free. It provides practical, effective help for all families with children birth to age 3.

- **Personal visits** by certified parent educators trained in child development.
- **Group meetings** with other parents to gain new insights, share experiences, and discuss topics of interest.
- **Information and guidance** before your baby is born to help you prepare for the important job of being a parent.
- **Information on what to look for and expect** as your child grows and develops.
- **Periodic checkups** of your child's educational and sensory (vision and hearing) development.

Under a 1984 state law, all school districts in Missouri provide assistance for parents and children before kindergarten.

This new law recognizes that children learn more during the preschool years than at any other time in life.

By offering parent-child programs through public schools, Missouri is leading the nation in the effort to improve children's language, social, intellectual, and physical development.

You can join the more than 50,000 families now taking part in this vanguard effort to improve educational opportunities for all children.



9-1-5
68/4/16

9-1-6
2/14/89

**"It's a vanguard program;
it's where the world ought
to be going."** Ed Zigler, noted
Yale University child psychologist.

Contact your local Missouri Public School District to enroll in the Parents As Teachers Program



...from the beginning All Parents are Teachers

The Parents as Teachers Program is offered in every Missouri school district. Local school districts are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Afton - 842-3050 | New Haven - 237-3231 |
| Bayless - 544-4156 | Normandy - 423-9524 / 389-8005 |
| Bismark R-V - 734-6111 | Northwest R-I - 671-3470 |
| Brentwood - 962-4507 | Orchard Farm - 258-3430 / 258-3800 |
| Clayton - 726-1666 | Parkway - 391-4763 / 851-8500 |
| Crystal City - 933-0792 | Pattonville - 298-4424 |
| DeSoto - 586-8811 | Potosi R-3 - 438-5411 / 438-2223 |
| Ferguson-Florissant - 831-8798 | Ritenour - 429-3500 ext. 210 |
| Festus R-6 - 937-4920 | Riverview Gardens - 869-2505
ext. 223 |
| Fort Zumwalt - 278-3231 | Rockwood - 225-4494 / 587-2531 |
| Francis Howell - 447-1151 | St. Charles - 946-6169 |
| Fox C-6 - 296-8000 | St. Clair - 629-1223 |
| Gasconade County R-I - 486-3197 | St. Louis City - 361-5500 |
| Hancock Place - 544-4156 | Sullivan - 468-4833 |
| Hazelwood - 921-4450 | Union R-XI - 583-8936 / 583-8937 |
| Hillsboro - 789-3378 | University City - 872-1964 |
| Jefferson R-7 - 937-9188 | Valley Park - 225-4151 |
| Jennings - 867-8900 | Warren County R-III, Warrenton, MO
456-4311 |
| Kirkwood - 965-9592 | Washington - 239-2896 |
| Ladue - 993-5724 | Webster Groves - 961-1233 ext. 12 |
| Lincoln County R-III,
Troy, MO 528-4623 | Wellston - 382-8111 |
| Lindbergh - 842-3050 | Wentzville - 441-9228 |
| Maplewood-Richmond Heights -
644-4400 | West County R-IV, Leadwood, MO
562-7558 |
| Mehlville - 892-5000 ext. 268/269 | Windsor C-1 - 464-1123 |
| Meramec Valley R-3 - 257-CARE
or 257-5612 | |

Enroll Now: PARENTS AS TEACHERS



An Early Learning Program
For Parents of Children
Birth to Age 3



This brochure is partially funded by a grant from the St. Louis Community Foundation.

As a parent, you are your child's first and most influential teacher.

Give your child the best possible start in life.

Call your local school district today to enroll in Parents As Teachers.



Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council
 Testimony in support of HB 2218
 House Education Committee
 February 16, 1989

**Kansas
 Child Abuse
 Prevention Council**

112 West 6th Street, Suite 305
 Topeka, Kansas 66603
 (913) 354-7738

140 N. Hydraulic, U.L.
 Wichita, Kansas 67214
 (316) 262-8434

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 James McHenry, Ph.D.

Mister Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am Jan Zander, representing Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council (KCAPC). As a certified Parent Educator and writer of the grant to fund the first Kansas Parents As Teachers pilot projects, I am pleased to express KCAPC's enthusiastic support for HB 2218 and Parents As Teachers (PAT).

KCAPC is the first chapter of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, (NCPCHA) established in 1976. We recently merged with Parents Anonymous of Kansas (PA) and now have 50 local coalitions and PA groups across the state.

KCAPC supports HB 2218 for the following reasons:

- A. NCPCHA's research on the value of home visitor-parent education models indicates that services to first time parents are an efficient use of scarce resources.
- B. KCAPC believes that PAT is a proven prevention model with a wide application for the general population as well as at-risk families. NCPCHA's research indicates that support and educational services which target parents before abusive or neglectful behavior develop are more likely to have a long lasting positive impact on parent-child interactions than services provided after abuse occurs.
- C. Of the 145 families enrolled in the Kansas PAT pilots in 1988, 113 of the families showed increased knowledge about their child's development, 115 demonstrated increased confidence in their child rearing practices, and 116 expressed positive feelings about the Parents As Teachers program.

KCAPC was able to set up six pilot projects in Leavenworth, Newton, Topeka, Pratt, Parsons, and Hays through a grant from Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. The Family and Children Trust Fund provides funding for a project in Salina which works in cooperation with the KCAPC pilots.

*Attachment 2
 House Education
 2/16/89*

Throughout the past year our Parent Educators have noted the following trends:

1. Most referrals come from local health departments, doctors, nurses, hospitals, churches, extension offices, special education cooperatives, SRS, and other parents.
2. The number of parents participating nearly doubles every quarter, with single and/or teen parents increasing more rapidly than two parent families. At the end of one year, 28% of the parents were teens and 38% were single parents.
3. PAT is for everyone; only 22% of the parents received SRS assistance.
4. Sixty-two percent of the parents demonstrated a positive behavior change during follow up visits.
5. The most common questions asked by parents were about discipline, day care, health and nutrition, sibling rivalry, and toy selection.

Parents As Teachers is gaining grassroots support. Since the start of our pilot projects in January 1988, numerous phone calls have been received in our office from school superintendents wanting PAT.

KCAPC is proud to be affiliated with the National Center for Parents As Teachers in St. Louis, Missouri. We are convinced that PAT is cost effective. It impacts a number of problems simultaneously. By supporting and encouraging parents, we enable them to become their child's first and most effective teacher.

We urge the passage of HB 2218 which will implement Parents As Teachers in Kansas.

Thank you,



Jan Zander
KCAPC
112 W. 6th, Suite 305
Topeka, KS 66603
913/354-7738

a-2-2
2/16/89

PARENTS AS TEACHERS
An Overview

The premise of the Parents as Teachers program is that new parents can be assisted in becoming their children's first teachers. Delivered by trained Parent Educators, the program centers around personal visits, preferably in the home, which allow Parent Educators to tailor educational guidance to each family.

Parent Educators observe parent-child interaction, provide timely information on the child's development, and respond to each parent's concerns. Parent Educators are also trained to screen for vision, hearing, and developmental delays and to suggest resources for follow-up if problems surface.

Parent Educators provide printed materials at each developmental level (birth to 3 years). They suggest books, games, and developmental teaching material found in the home, and address other concerns of parents. In addition, group meetings for parents of similarly aged children enable families to share common concerns and successes in rearing and teaching their children.

Parents as Teachers was first piloted in Missouri in 1981. An independent evaluation of the program concluded that "parental participation in a high quality parent education program during a child's first three years of life significantly increases a child's intellectual achievement and language ability at age three above and beyond what can be explained by differences that result from socioeconomic advantage."

Piloted in Kansas by the Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council with funding from Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities, Parents as Teachers demonstrated an ability to impact at-risk families as well as those not under unusual stress. With a highly trained parent educator in charge, one of the pilots focused on unwed teenage mothers. The teenagers were so pleased with the project, they began referring their friends to the parent educator for help and guidance.

The Parents as Teachers program has been endorsed in Kansas by the Governor's Commission on Children and Families, the State Board of Education, and the Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood. It is estimated by the Department of Education that the program could be implemented statewide at a cost of \$6.1 million. The program could be phased in over a three year period with an initial allocation of around \$2 million.

For Further Information Contact:

Jim McHenry
Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council
112 West 6th, Suite 305
Topeka, KS 66603
tel: 913/354-7738

a-2-3
2/16/89

DATE: Mon 1-16-89

- | | | |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> MANHATTAN MERCURY | <input type="checkbox"/> WINFIELD DAILY COURIER |

Parents as teachers put children ahead

At long last, the Parents as Teachers program may be coming to Kansas in a big way. This is the innovative and much-copied program of early childhood education which uses parents as the teachers. Information on child-raising—everything from age-appropriate toys to toilet training—is given to the parents of children from birth to age 3 so they can help their youngsters through this formative period of life. Home visits by parent educators and developmental screenings are included.

Six Kansas school districts are preparing to launch a pilot program this spring, utilizing private funding and some public money, to implement a Parents as Teachers program on the Kansas side of the state line. The districts already in the consortium are Kansas City, Kan., Leavenworth, Turner, Olathe, and Blue Valley. In addition, the Shawnee Mission School District is expected to join the group. Soon, parents who live in those school districts will be able to take advantage of this excellent program which helps them with parenting skills as well as helps them learn how to give

their children the best head start in life.

Although these districts will be the first in Kansas to offer the program as part of the school systems, there are Parents as Teachers programs in several Kansas communities through the Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council. These were started a year ago with private funding. They can't go on forever without some other assistance.

A bill was defeated in the last session of the Kansas Legislature to start Parents as Teachers in all districts, but this year the chances should be better. More legislators are going to be aware of this program, and the advocacy for it by child abuse groups and early childhood educators to a special state committee appointed by Gov. Mike Hayden last year should provide a lot of support for the concept.

Parents as Teachers is one program of state leadership in an area of education that Missouri can point to with pride. As Kansas parents begin to learn what this can mean to them to help their children along, the support should overwhelm their lawmakers.

109
a-2-4
2/16/89

THE ASSOCIATION FOR
RETARDED CITIZENS OF KANSAS, INC.



11111 W. 59th TERRACE
SHAWNEE, KANSAS 66203 • (913) 268-8200

Hope through understanding

ROBERT ATKISSON
President
Stockton

BRENT GLAZIER
Executive Director

MARIE LEACH
Vice President
Wichita

February 16, 1989

MARY DONDLINGER
Secretary
Hutchinson

TO: Representative Don Crumbaker, Chairman
Members of the House Education Committee

ED REMPE
Treasurer
Hays

FROM: Lila Paslay, Chairman
Legislative Affairs

CAROL A. DUCKWORTH
Past President
Lawrence

RE: H.B. 2218

Members of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Kansas urge you to support H.B. 2218.

During the past few years, some parents of preschool children with special needs, have had the opportunity to participate in comprehensive preschool programs which have included in the services, parent education. In those instances where families have had access to such programs, they have been able to provide their children with an environment which allows for continued learning at home. This environment provides security for the parents, knowing they are broadening their children's learning experiences while, at the same time, gaining a sense of well-being, knowing what they are doing is giving their children a better start in life.

In my 30 years of working with parents who have children with mental retardation, I have yet to have a parent tell me they had planned to have a child with such special needs and knew exactly how to proceed with assisting the child in their development.

The passage of this bill would enable school districts to utilize one of their best resources for educating preschool children, parents who have been given needed teaching skills.

We urge you to vote H.B. 2218 favorably out of your committee.

Attachment 3

2/16/89

Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building

120 East 10th Street Topeka. Kansas 66612-1103

Mildred McMillon
District 1

Connie Hubbell
District 4

Bill Musick
District 6

Evelyn Whitcomb
District 8

Kathleen White
District 2

I. B. "Sonny" Rundell
District 5

Richard M. Robl
District 7

Timothy R. Emert
District 9

Paul D. Adams
District 3

Richard J. Peckham
District 10

February 16, 1989

TO: House Education Committee
FROM: State Board of Education
SUBJECT: 1989 House Bill 2218

My name is Connie Hubbell, Chairman of the State Board of Education. It is a pleasure for me to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

House Bill 2218 provides that the board of every school district may: (1) develop and operate a parent education program; (2) enter into cooperative or interlocal agreements with one or more other boards for the development and operation of a parent education program; (3) contract with private, nonprofit corporations or associations or with any public or private agency or institution, whether located within or outside the state, for the provision of services which are appropriate to a parent education program; and (4) apply for a grant of state monies to supplement amounts expended by the school district for development and operation of a parent education program.

This program applies to the parents of preschool age children under the age of three and provide resource materials on home learning activities, private and group educational guidance, individual and group learning experiences for preschool age children and their parents, and other activities that enable the parents of such children to improve learning in the home.

This program has been piloted in Missouri and has been quite successful. A typical program employs (1) one, one-half time professional person who meets with the parents of preschool age children under three years of age at least four times per year in addition to one group meeting of all parents. For those students who are at risk, it may be necessary to meet as often as every two to three weeks.

It is the State Board's opinion that a program of this nature could be helpful in reducing the number of at risk students entering Kansas schools. The number of children at risk of failure in school and life has risen dramatically with the increase in social and cultural stresses on children.

According to statistics compiled by the Children's Defense Fund, the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, and the National Education Association:

- * 19.3 percent of Kansas students who enter the ninth grade do not complete high school.
- * 1,657 Kansas teenagers under the age of 18 are incarcerated in prison.
- * 83.5 percent of Kansas teenagers reported using alcohol before their eighteenth birthday.
- * 26.2 percent of Kansas teenagers reported using marijuana before their eighteenth birthday.
- * 10.6 percent of Kansas teenagers reported using cocaine before their eighteenth birthday.
- * 40 teenage suicides were reported in Kansas in 1985-86.
- * 317 suicide attempts were reported to high school counselors in 1985-86.
- * 4,522 babies were born to teens in Kansas in 1985.
- * 67 percent of the mothers with children ages 6-17 work outside the home.
- * 48 percent of the mothers with children under six years of age work outside the home.

The State Board of Education is quite concerned about the identification and intervention of at-risk students. Large numbers of Kansas students experience problems that seriously interfere with their learning, school attendance, preparation for employment, or satisfactory progress toward graduation. They often fall behind their classmates, are truant, behave disruptively, face suspension or expulsion, and drop out of school. If their problems are not addressed effectively, these children face a bleak future: one that will bear enormous costs for both the children and society as a whole.

It is the State Board's opinion that the parents as teachers program as provided in House Bill 2218 would help eliminate some of the problems previously discussed and would train parents in reducing the number of at risk children and in turn have the effect of improving educational achievement of students as they prepare for the future.

The State Board of Education recommends that House Bill 2218 be recommended favorable for passage.

a-4-2
2/16/89

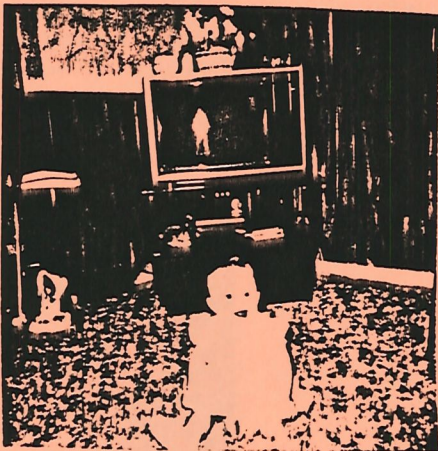


... "I believe in the "Parents as Teachers" program 110%. The feeling I as a parent am left with after I meet with Jeanette and honestly talk on a one-on-one about my son and not receive criticism but positive advice, share laughs, frustrations and concerns is a very positive feeling every parent should experience. This program opens your eye and the old phrase "terrible twos" is changed to "Terrific Twos." ...

*Brian R. Hiller
Kristi A. Hiller*

".....It reassures me that Meagan is where she's supposed to be and sometimes above! It gives me a chance to ask an experienced person about her growth and development..."

Stacy Brenner



... "It teaches me more about my child and things she will be doing and how to talk to her and not to worry or expect too much." ...

Karla William



5



**PARENTAL TESTIMONY
FOR
PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

Presented to
Governor's Commission on
Children and Families
July 27, 1988
Jeanette Tauscher, Parent Educator
Hays, Kansas

*Attachment 5
Hays Education
2/10/89*



"..."One of my favorite parts of the program is the home visits because it gives me ideas on how to motivate the child in various play activities. ...The states and phases a child goes through at different ages and what to expect is very helpful..."

Lisa Curry

"...I like it...Wish there would have been a program like this with my first baby. I love the information on safety procedures and all the other sorts of helpful things I get.

Cherilyn Staab



"..."It's Great! Parents As Teachers helps me to prepare my child with a firm foundation and through it I can detect early signs of slow development."

Andrea Pfannenstiel



"As new parents, the Parents as Teachers program has helped us become more enthused in becoming good parents. The feedback that we receive has been very beneficial in providing us with information concerning the things that we are doing well, things we can improve on and possibly some things that may not be good practice. We feel this interaction has motivated us to learn and develop as parents as our child grows and develops."

Pat & Helen Bore



"... I like it. There is nothing I don't like about it. It is much more informative then I thought it would be at first. I can make sure that my baby is doing what he should be for his age. If not, it helps me see what I can do to help. I'm really pleased with it..."

Debra M. DeBee

After going through speech classes with our two year old we felt it was a good idea to make sure the baby was developing normally. With Parents as Teachers giving information and periodical checks we feel we are able to keep a watch on his development. If there is a problem we can spot it early and work with it. It is always a good feeling to know your child is normal or a little advanced for his age group.

Claudia Leher



PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM

625 Minnesota Avenue ° Kansas City, Kansas 66101-1898 ° (913) 621-3073, Ext. 241

Nancy M. Keel
Program Director

Member Districts/
Board of Directors

Kansas City
Dr. David L. Lusk,
Superintendent

Blue Valley
Dr. James Thompson,
Superintendent

Leavenworth
Dr. Michael Slusher,
Superintendent

Olathe
Dr. M. L. Winters,
Superintendent

Shawnee Mission
Dr. Raj Chopra,
Superintendent

Turner
Dr. Robert Hale,
Superintendent

Crittenton
Dr. Gary D. Baker,
President

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FROM: DR. JAMES C. THOMPSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
BLUE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #229
RE: HOUSE BILL 2218
DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 1989

I am here to speak in behalf of House Bill 2218. Specifically, I support any assistance which can be provided to the Parents as Teachers program which is coming to our state of Kansas.

Parents as Teachers, a program which emphasizes parenting education, child development, child health, and nutrition, began in 1981 in Missouri schools. It has become nationally recognized, having been selected by Harvard University in 1987 as one of the top ten outstanding innovations in state and local government. It has proven so successful in reducing child abuse, in providing parenting skills, and in enhancing the child's early education, that we are now importing it to Kansas, and several groups of school districts have formed coalitions to provide the program to families in their areas of the state. In Northeast Kansas, the Leavenworth, Turner, Kansas City, Kan., Shawnee Mission, Blue Valley, and Olathe School Districts have formed such a coalition and are beginning a two-year pilot project with the Parents as Teachers program. Our goal is to help enhance learning potential and to diminish possible development problems in young children.

We think that it is significant that the six school districts which have initiated this project will be piloting the program in a wide variety of family settings. Within our school districts are families in urban, suburban, and rural surroundings. There is a wide range of adult education levels, and all sorts of family structures will be represented among the 800 families who will be participating in our pilot project. Some families will qualify for welfare; others will be middle-income. The point is that we will be trying the program in Kansas communities which are like all Kansas communities.

Parents as Teachers is such a recognized program that

the 1988 Governor's Commission on Children and Families Report specifically recommended that the program be expanded and enhanced in Kansas. It is seen by officials in whose states it is provided as a program to promote the well-being of children and families and it enjoys legislative support in those states. As one Missouri official said, "Our aim is to make Parents as Teachers as common a part of a family's education as kindergarten."

The six sponsoring school districts in Northeast Kansas, along with the private-sector support which we have received from Crittenton and other private foundations, have committed to this two-year pilot project because we believe that young families in Kansas need the program, that children in Kansas deserve the opportunity for good health and early development, and that education is, in fact, a life-long activity which begins at birth. In undertaking the project and introducing the program in our communities, we recognize that there is great risk in that funding beyond the two-year pilot is not assured. Our school districts, without assistance from the state of Kansas, will not be able to fund this excellent program beyond the pilot period.

We believe that the Parents as Teachers Program is needed in our Kansas communities. We believe that the Kansas Legislature should support this program as it has been supported by legislatures in other states. We believe that the recommendation of Governor Hayden's Commission on Children and Families should be implemented. We urge you to support House Bill 2218.

A-6-2
2/16/89

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEARING
Thursday, February 16, 1989, 3:30 p.m.

RE: HOUSE BILL 2218 (Parent Education Programs - Child Care)

Exerpts from: Child Care, The Essential Infrastructure, A Report of the Child Care Task Force (Approved by the Kansas City Concensus Board of Directors) September 17, 1987. 3515 Broadway, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64111, 106 pages.

Page
vii-

"Kansas City has shown similar growth. Of the 78,000 mothers with children under six years old in the five-county metropolitan core area, more than 40,000 are in the labor force. Of the 98,000 mothers with school-age children 6 to 17 years old, 67,000 (68.3) percent) are working."

vii-

"Child care services for school-age children are also in apparent short supply. Twenty-three percent of parents with children under 13 report that their children regularly spend some part of the day caring for themselves or in the care of an older sibling. Population forecasts indicate that the number of young school-age children is increasing as children of the Baby Boomers enter school, so that the need for school-age child care is likely to increase over the next five to ten years."

viii-

"Traditionally, child care has been seen as strictly a private parental responsibility. While the Task Force recognizes the parental responsibility, and accepts the value of family-provided child care, it also sees a need for increased societal support for all child care options."

xi-

"The number of pre-school and school-age children is on an upswing that is projected to continue over the next five to ten years. Local school districts should set up before- and after-school child care programs."

1-

"In the last quarter century, child care has become an essential component of our economic infrastructure due to the dramatic increase in the number of single parent and working couple families."

TESTIMONY OF MARY MCCALLISTER, KANSAS ACTION FOR
CHILDREN, INC. ON H.B. 2218 BEFORE THE HOUSE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 16, 1989.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, my name is Mary McCallister. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Kansas Action for Children, Inc. I am here today speaking in favor of H.B. 2218 which is a parent education program providing guidance to parents with children under the age of three. This program is created to assist parents in providing a better home learning environment for preschool aged children.

Kansas Action for Children supports this program for the reason it has been proven effective in the State of Missouri. Results of an independent evaluation of parents as teachers (PAT), which began in 1981, disclosed children at age three were significantly advanced in language development as compared to their peers. These children also demonstrated better problem solving and other intellectual skills and were further advanced in social development. These indicators are predictive of and essential to later educational achievement. One other point of interest is that parent satisfaction with the program was nearly one hundred percent.

As you know, Kansas Action for Children is an advocate in the areas of teen pregnancy and family preservation. We have learned from our work that primary preventive efforts like the PAT program embodied in H.B. 2218 may well prevent incidents of child abuse and neglect as well as assist teen parents. It is well recognized that inadequate parenting skills are one of the most often cited stress factors by parents consulting with family preservation workers. Inadequate parenting skills are confronted by this legislation and this legislation will increase the prospects for those skills to be improved.

I have also served as the founding president of CASA of Shawnee County, Inc., the Court appointed special advocate program. Our experience in administering this program which provides assistance to the juvenile court as well as those children in need of care who are before the court also convinces me of the need for the implementation of this program. The ounce of early prevention provided by H.B. 2218 will likely avoid many future problems for children who are the potential victims of abuse and neglect.

Finally, from a public policy standpoint, we are interested in all Kansas children. The supports provided by H.B. 2218 will place a stronger emphasis on all families and the children in them. I urge your favorable consideration of this legislation.

*Attachment 8
House Education
2/16/89*



STATE OF KANSAS

MIKE HAYDEN, GOVERNOR

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

300 SW Oakley
SMITH-WILSON BLDG.

(913) 296-4649

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66606-1898

KANS-A-N 561-4649

Testimony Before the House Committee on Education
Representative Don E. Crumbaker, Chairman

HOUSE BILL NO. 2218

February 16, 1989

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY ON THE BENEFITS OF PARENT EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. MY NAME IS JOHN PIERPONT, AND I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AWARDS GRANTS FROM THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN TRUST FUND FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS. FOR NEARLY TEN YEARS, PARENT EDUCATION PROJECTS HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE. COMMUNITY LEADERS RECOGNIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROVIDING PARENTS EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS AS A STRATEGY FOR HELPING ENTIRE FAMILIES. EACH OF US KNOWS INWARDLY WHAT SOCIAL RESEARCH TELLS US OBJECTIVELY: THAT A PERSON'S BEST CHANCE TO BE A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE ADULT IS TO HAVE BEEN A HEALTHY, WELL EDUCATED AND CARED FOR CHILD.

DR. BURTON WHITE, AN AUTHORITY ON INFANCY AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SAYS THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY OF ANY SCHOOL SYSTEM SHOULD BE GETTING A CHILD TO HIS OR HER THIRD BIRTHDAY IN GREAT SHAPE. RESEARCH STUDIES REPEATEDLY SHOW THAT THE BASIC SKILLS -- READING, WRITING, COMMUNICATING, COMPUTING -- ARE THE LIFE SKILLS MOST CRITICAL TO A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THESE SKILLS CANNOT BE LEARNED ADEQUATELY, AND SOMETIMES ARE NOT LEARNED AT ALL, WHEN CHILDREN BEGIN PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN WITH SIGNIFICANT DEFICITS. PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS CAN HELP ELIMINATE SUCH DEFICITS. THEY CAN ENSURE A GREATER LIKELIHOOD THAT EACH CHILD WILL REACH HIS OR HER THIRD BIRTHDAY IN GREAT SHAPE.

BEFORE CLOSING, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE ONE LAST POINT, A POINT THAT HAS NOT BEEN MADE OFTEN ENOUGH OR CLEARLY ENOUGH. THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD PUT AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE TOWARD AS MANY SOCIAL PROGRAMS AS POSSIBLE, IN HOPES THAT SOME OF THEM WILL WORK AND SOCIETY WILL BE BETTER OFF. LIKewise, THERE ARE THOSE WHO DISDAIN MOST SOCIAL PROGRAMS, BELIEVING THAT NONE OF THEM HAS BEEN SHOWN TO WORK, AND THAT

*Attachment 9
House Education
2/16/89*

MONEY SPENT IS PROBABLY MONEY WASTED. BOTH OF THESE NOTIONS ARE HELD BY PEOPLE WHO, DESPITE THEIR GOOD INTENTIONS, REMAIN UNINFORMED.

RECENT STUDIES SHOW THAT THERE ARE SOME SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT WORK: CERTAIN PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE IN THIS CATEGORY. WHEN THEY ARE WELL DESIGNED, ACCURATELY TARGETED, AND PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED AND MONITORED, SUCH PROGRAMS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE THE SUCCESS OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN ALIKE. THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS CAN WORK. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THESE PROGRAMS TO WORK ON BEHALF OF KANSAS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE URGES THE PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 2218, AND COMMENDS YOU FOR CONSIDERING IT IN THESE HEARINGS TODAY. THANK YOU.

John Pierpont, Coordinator
Children & Youth Advisory Committee
296-4656

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 16, 1989

House Bill No. 2218

My name is John Wine and I am testifying in favor of House Bill No. 2218 as a member of the Governor's Commission on Children and Families.

"Parents as Teachers" is the parent education program that received careful review by the child abuse sub-committee chaired by former Representative Elaine Hassler. The commission heard testimony about this program at every public hearing and we further studied the program during sub-committee meetings.

"Parents as Teachers" was shown to be successful in Missouri and in five privately funded pilot projects in Kansas. It has been recognized nationally and internationally as a cost effective way of helping parents learn how to properly care for their children.

This program provides support and training in the home by specially trained parent educators. As a program of the local schools, it is tailored to the needs of the community and is free of the stigma sometimes attached to social services.

The commission proposed the expansion and enhancement of this program as a proven means of helping children and reducing the costs that government otherwise incurs to care for emotionally and medically deprived children.

I urge the committee to favorably report H.B. 2218.

John Wine, Member
Governor's Commission on Children and Families

*Attachment 10
House Education
2/16/89*



KANSAS GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FOR PARENTHOOD

The Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood has a commitment to see parent education available for all Kansas parents. A need to determine existing programs currently provided through public and private agencies was identified at the annual retreat in July 1988.

Following is a summary of services provided.

*Attachment II
House Education
2/16/89*

On September 19, 1988, the Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood convened a meeting of representatives of the above name agencies to identify services already in place in Kansas for parent education. Following is a summary of programs identified.

<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Loretta Shelley	Dept. of Human Resources	296-4161
Richard B. Ellis	Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services	296-3925
Jim Schalansky	Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services	296-3925
Jan Knoll	Social & Rehabilitation Services	296-3210
Mary L.C. Wilson	Shawnee County Community Action Association	232-0531
Mary Ann Humphries	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	296-1234
Tom Henley	Kansas State Dept. of Education	296-4926
Jim McHenry	Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council	354-7738
Warren Bell	Kansas State Dept. of Education	296-2306
Steve McDowell	Kansas Department of Health and Enviroment	296-1303
Linda Johnson	Kansas State Dept. of Education	296-4912
Marjorie Stith	Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities	539-9269
Jan Zander	Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood	354-7738

a-11-2
2/16/89

Programs in which Parent Education is the primary goal:

Healthy Start
Parents Are Wonderful
Parents As Teachers

Programs that play an integral part in children's lives - Parent Education in not their primary goal:

Balancing Work and Family
Child Care Training
Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programs
Family Preservation Project
Head Start
Maternal and Infant Programs
Mother to Mother
Well Child Clinics

Programs in which Parent Education is the Primary goal:

Program Name: Healthy Start

Agency Providing: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Target Audience: High risk parents of children under 1 year of age

Delivery Method: Lay visitor makes home visit to new parents.
High risk parents may be seen again.

Approximate Number Served: 15,000 served, 26,000 referrals

Where Available: 49 counties

Funding Source: 37 counties are funded by KDHE and 11 are funded by Children and Youth Trust Fund; \$340,000 State and Federal funding.

Cost to Parent: None

Comment: Program is designed to promote positive health behavior by providing home visitation to families with or expecting newborns. Observation, education, referrals, resource linkage and support are provided through home visits.

Families are visited by trained lay persons based on identified need, regardless of socio-economic status or ethnic background. Initial assessments are made of at-risk families, and only these families participate in the program.

Contact Person: Mary Ann Humphries, 296-1234

Program Name: Parents Are Wonderful

Agency Providing: Geary County Health Department

Target Audience: Mothers covered under WIC and the Mother and Infant project

Delivery Method: Six weeks of parenting skills classes for low-income mothers provided by speakers on various subjects of interest to parents.

Where Available: Geary County

Funding Source: Family and Children's Trust Fund

Cost to Parent: None

Comment: Parenting skills classes for WIC and M and I mothers focusing on the family unit.

Contact Person: Charlotte Dugan, (913) 296-5788

A-11-4
2/16/89

PARENTING EDUCATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>How Delivered</u>	<u>Served</u>	<u>Other</u>
Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD)	Chapters in high and junior high schools. Parents involved in sponsorship and activities.	165+ SADD chapters	Youth Program with Parent Involvement
Talking With Your Kids About Alcohol (TWYKAA) Mandated for Reg. Ctrs.	4 sessions with parents: 1) biological 2) choices 3) parent action 4) coping with society	All regional prevention programs are trained	Parent Program
Students Taught Awareness and Resistance (STAR)	Parents recruited to support the program - form a Star Parents Group	Training to all Regional Prevention Programs	Youth Program with parent involvement
Developing capable young people (DCYP)	Parent training based on significant skills parents need to develop capable children	Wichita Prevention Center Steven Glenn Program	Parent program Regional
SRS/ADAS Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services	Resource clearinghouse providing pamphlets, brochures and other information	Statewide distribution	State agency providing information
You've Got to Be Kidding	Parent training with video tapes	Mainly Johnson Co.	Parent program
Get Set	Parent training to clubs, offices, etc.	Mainly Topeka area	Parent adaptation of Youth Program
National Fed. for Parents Training	Parent Training on Just Say No	Mainly Salina area	No set curriculum

a-11-5
2/16/89

Program Name: Parents As Teachers

Agency Providing: Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council

Target Audience: All parents of children birth to age 3

Delivery Method: In-home visits and group meetings conducted by trained parent educators

Approximate Number Served: Families in 7 pilots

Where Available: Parsons, Pratt, Leavenworth, Hays, Newton, Salina, and Topeka

Funding Source: Pilot projects funded for one year through Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities. Project in Salina funded by Family and Children's Trust Fund.

Cost to Parent: None

Comment: This program is designed to promote positive parenting skills by giving all parents age appropriate developmental information about their child. Home visitation and group meetings are available to every interested parent of children up to age 3. Trained parent educators provide observation, education, resource linkage, screening and referrals.

Contact Person: Jim McHenry, 354-7738

Programs in which Parent Education is not the primary goal; however play an integral part in the lives of Kansas Children:

Program Name: Balancing Work and Family

Agency Providing: Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

Target Audience: Employed Adults

Delivery Method: Seminars in the workplace

Approximate Number Served: A maximum of 25/seminar

Where Available: Statewide except North Central Kansas. This program consists of seminars delivered in the workplace and is designed to enhance individual development, family development, development of the working parent, and work and family development.

Funding Source: Carl Perkins Vocational Education legislation, plus \$75 per seminar hour with maximum of 25 adults. This fee is paid by workplace providing the seminar.

Cost to Parent: None

Contact Person: Linda Johnson, KSDE, 296-4912

a-11-6
2/16/89

Program Name: Child Care Training

Agency Providing: Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities

Target Audience: Child Care providers, day care centers, foster homes, group homes and family day care.

Delivery Method: Volunteers train child care providers from 20 available courses.

Where Available: Statewide

Funding Source: State Social and Rehabilitation Services funds.

Cost: Cost of materials

Comment: Twenty programs are available through 53 volunteer trainers to increase the skills of child care workers.

Contact Person: Dr. Marjorie Stith, 913-296-9269.

Program Name: Various Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Programs

Agency Providing: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Service, Social Rehabilitation Services

Target Audience: School-age children and their parents

Delivery Method: Parent training through video tapes and group meetings to help the parent develop capable young people

Where Available: Through five regional prevention centers

Funding Source: \$160,000/regional center through state and federal funding

Cost to Parent: Varies by program.

Comments: (See Attachment)

Contact Person: Jim Schalansky, 296-3925.

a-11-7
2/16/89

Program Name: Family Preservation Project

Agency Providing: Social and Rehabilitation Services

Target Audience: Parents whose children are in danger of being removed from the home and put into foster care.

Delivery Method: Social workers spend intense time with parents to empower the family so it is safe for children to remain in the home.

Approximate Number Served: Figures available in November.

Where Available: Wichita, Topeka, Salina, Garden City, Emporia

Funding Source: Training is done through a federal grant. Staff is funded through state and local moneys.

Cost to Parent: None

Comments: Intense services are given by social workers to families in jeopardy of losing their children for foster care placement.

Contact Person: Jan Knoll, 296-4210

Program Name: Head Start

Agency Providing: USD 501/Shawnee County Community Action Agency. Varies by community.

Target Audience: Low income parents of children 4 years of age

Delivery Method: Classes held for parents on child development dealing with stress, basic skills, and discipline.

Approximate Number Served: 1 out of 5 eligible children are served

Funding Source: Federal funds through school districts or community agencies.

Cost to Parent: None

Comments: This program is geared for four-year-old children from low income families. Parent education is offered to parents.

Contact Person: Mary L.C. Wilson, 232-0531; Theresa Counts, 273-8249

9-11-8
2/16/89

Program Name: Maternal and Infant Programs (M & I)

Agency Providing: Kansas Department of Health and Environment
(KDHE)

Target Audience: Pregnant women and children through their first birthday who are at or below 185% federal poverty level

Delivery Method: During well child check up, mother receives information on health issues concerning her child.

Approximate Number Served: 3,300

Where Available: In 39 counties

Funding Source: State and Federal funds

Cost: None

Comments: Mothers are given information on child health issues at the time of well baby checkup.

Contact Person: Steve McDowell at 296-1303

Program Name: Mother to Mother

Agency Providing: Church groups - non-denominational

Target Audience: Low-income mothers

Delivery Method: Volunteers (church women) work on a one-to-one basis with low-income families on basic survival skills

Where Available: 10 cities in Kansas

Funding Source: Through the Disciples of Christ Church

Cost to Parent: None

Comments: Volunteers work with low-income families to train them in basic homemaking skills. Also the volunteers try to better understand the plight of the low-income mother.

Contact Person: Sister Arthel Cline, (913) 682-5151, Ext. 209

a-11-9
2/16/89

Program Name: Well Child Clinics

Agency Providing: Kansas Department of Health and Environment
(KDHE)

Target Audience: Children birth to 18 years of age, any income level.

Approximate Number Served: 80,000

Where Available: 102 counties - level of service varies by county and by client.

Funding Source: Federal and State funds (varies by county and by client income).

Cost to Parent: None

Comments: This program is used by most Kansas families at some time in their child's life. Information is given on child health issues.

Contact Person: Steve McDowell at 296-1303

A-11-10
2/16/89

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2218

On behalf of the Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood I urge your favorable consideration of House Bill No. 2218 authorizing the development and operation of parent education programs with grants of moneys to selected school districts for this purpose.

The Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood was established more than eleven years ago by Governor Bennett and has been continued by Governors Carlin and Hayden. The Commission is a coalition of individuals, organizations, and agencies from across the state devoted to enhancing the quality of family life in Kansas through improved parenting skills. During its existence the Commission has made significant contributions toward improved parenting. These include the encouragement of local schools, churches, and other organizations to conduct parenting skills building training, six state-wide conferences with 500 to 1,000 in attendance at each, the development of guidelines used by our State Board of Education in the recent sex education mandate to local school districts, supporting with others the establishment of the Childrens' Trust Fund, and the maintenance of a Parenting Education Resource Center which provides materials free of charge to schools and any other group or individual needing resources for parenting education.

Our Commission attempts to identify all parenting education programs in place in Kansas. Attached is a summary of these programs as we found them last September. Our hope is that this information will be helpful to you as you consider House Bill No. 2218.

At least six years ago our Commission became aware of the Missouri Parents As Teachers program. Leaders from Missouri came to our meetings to share concepts and details with us. Parents As Teachers is designed to empower new parents to become their child's first teachers. The Missouri program has had exciting success. We have been encouraging its replication in Kansas for several years. We supported the efforts of Kansas Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse to obtain the McDonalds grants to start Parents As Teachers pilot programs. We enthusiastically welcomed Representative Pottorff's introduction of House Bill No. 2218 and urge its passage.

There simply is no more urgent need in our society than the need to nurture our children to become wholesome, capable, and productive adults. Our very future depends on it. Such nurturing begins with parent and child. The fact is that parents are the child's first teachers. This Bill simply provides a means for parents to become better first teachers.

It is a shame that children today too often enter school without the skills and readiness to succeed in the classroom. As a result, they are doomed to being forever behind academically, alienated socially, drop-outs, underemployed, unemployed, unproductive, unhappy, law-breakers, drug addicts, and - unfortunately - the parents of tomorrow who will continue the cycle in another generation.

Through House Bill No. 2218 this Committee has the opportunity to take a step toward breaking this vicious cycle. We urge you to take this step.

- James F. Coder, Past-President
The Governor's Commission on Education for Parenthood

*Attachment 12
House Education 2/16/89*

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 2218
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
February 16, 1989

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am appearing today in support of House Bill 2218 which authorizes development and operation of parent education programs in Kansas school districts.

My name is Marlene Merrill. I am a School Psychologist. I work at Topeka's Alternative Education Program which also provides a Teen Aid Program. Teen Aid provides the opportunity for pregnant teenagers to continue their high school education. This program provides intensive social services supports with group counseling, individualized planning for each student, and the opportunity for parent education training. This program attempts to meet the needs of the "at risk" student.

Parenting education is of paramount importance for preventing child abuse and preventing future learning problems in the offspring of these early teen parents. Parent education provides teenage parents with a knowledge of appropriate developmental expectations, skills to encourage parent-child bonding, and stimulate the child's early learning experiences. Research reported by the Menninger Foundation (1988), National Academy of Science (1987), Furstenburg (1987) and others, stress the tremendous variation in early parenthood outcomes with the increased potential for child abuse and neglect and risk of delayed language development and other pre-academic skills in the children of teen parents.

Four areas of development critical to later educational success appear to be at risk when a child is between 8 and 36 months of age. These areas are: (1) language, (2) curiosity development, (3) social skills and attachment, and (4) sensory-motor intelligence.

*Attachment 13
House Education
2/16/89*

This year at Teen Aid we have provided the program: "Parents As First Teachers". This program is based on 13 years of research on early development conducted by Dr. Burton White of Harvard University. At each session, approximately 15 teenage parents attended. We have two class sessions for young teen parents every three weeks. Each class concentrates on the development of children from birth to strengthen each parent's capacity to rear young children, to identify and to treat relevant handicaps as early as possible, and to continue continuity in educational experiences.

Each time, a young mother brings her baby to the class and demonstrates with the help of the leader, the skills the infant of that age stage can perform and what activities the mother can do to help her baby learn. The girls have been very interested in the infant demonstration and teaching video presentations. After the Stage III class, infant aged 3½ months to 5 months, the young mother who had brought her baby to the class, came to the Teen Aid group the next week reporting that her baby had performed the developmental skill we had talked about in class and had learned to roll over. Also, through the presentation of Parents as First Teachers Program, we have successfully intervened and encouraged a young mother identify a vision problem early and helped her to get medical care for the problem, preventing a more serious problem from developing. The young mothers have also learned a simple test to check their baby's hearing acuity. This program helps teach young parents skills they need to provide the child the best possible start in life.

I urge your passage of House Bill 2218 which encourages the State Department of Education to support development of parent education programs in Kansas.

Marlene Merrill

Marlene Merrill
232-0551

STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Statement Regarding H.B. 2218

1. Title

An Act authorizing the development and operation of parent education programs in public school districts through the granting of state monies by the State Board of Education.

2. Purpose

To allow for the establishment of parent education in public school districts for the parents of pre-school aged children, who have not attained the age of three years.

3. Background

The Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council received funds for one year through Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities to establish pilot projects designed after the Missouri Parents as Teachers Program. Projects were established in Parsons, Pratt, Leavenworth, Hays and Newton, with a sixth project in Salina funded by the Family and Children's Trust Fund. The projects provide the parents of children birth to age three with appropriate child development information for their child. Parent Educators conduct in-home visits and group meetings. Networking between the Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council and local boards of education has been a vital component of the projects.

The lack of parenting skills and knowledge of child development are identified as contributing factors in the abuse and neglect of children. A statewide non-threatening, universal program with no stigma on parent education, made available through public schools to the parents of all children from birth to age three would be an important primary prevention measure.

4. Effect of Passage

The ability to establish a primary child abuse and neglect prevention program through parent education would impact positively on the families and children of Kansas. This bill would provide a program that will enable parents to understand their children's needs and thus provide healthy supportive home environments for their children.

5. Recommendation

SRS recommends passage of this bill.

Winston Barton
Office of the Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
(913) 296-3271

*Attachment 14
House Education
2/16/89*

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS



5401 S. W. 7th Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66606
913-273-3600

Testimony on H.B. 2218
before the
House Education Committee

by

John W. Koepke, Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of 301 member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards with regards to H.B. 2218. At the last meeting of our Delegate Assembly in December of 1988, our delegates adopted a policy encouraging the Legislature to develop incentive programs for school districts when it desired to affect desirable changes.

We believe that H.B. 2218, with respect to parent education programs would be a perfect illustration of that policy statement. Parent education programs of type suggested in H.B. 2218 have enjoyed enormous success in other states, most notably in our neighboring state of Missouri. We believe that they should be encouraged in Kansas school districts through an incentive grant program such as that contemplated in H.B. 2218.

*Attachment 15
House Education
2/16/89*

Testimony on H.B. 2218

February 16, 1989

Page 2

We also believe that Kansas school districts will be far more responsive and enthusiastic about programs such as this one when they are implemented through incentive grants, rather than through unfunded mandates. We appreciate the thoughtfulness which has gone into the introduction of this program and urge your favorable consideration of H.B. 2218. I would be happy to answer any questions about our position.

A-15-2
2/16/89



HOUSE BILL 2218

Testimony presented before the House Education Committee
by Charles Stuart, Legislative Liaison
United School Administrators

Thursday, February 16, 1989

The United School Administrators support favorable action on House Bill 2218 which provides funds for the establishment of educational programs for parents of preschool aged children.

As a practicing school superintendent until July 1, 1988, I was involved in our school district's inauguration of a "parents as teachers" program. Using school psychologists, kindergarten teachers, and some special education staff members such as speech and physical therapists, all children four years of age were tested. These four year olds were one year short of the age of kindergarten attendance. Test results and counseling were provided to the parents and special instructional programs for parents were made available.

The original plan was to add a one year age grouping annually until the program involved all children from birth to age five. Our district however, has not been able to move below the four year old age group.

Several problems emerged from our efforts to extend the program. These problems include:

1. The cost of personnel who conducted the testing and counseling outside their annual contract time.
2. The lack of personnel trained in early childhood education to meet with and to advise parents of the most effective ways of working with their children.
3. The age old problem of those parents needing the most help not being in attendance at group meetings.

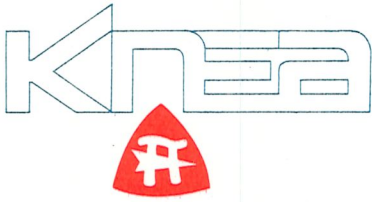
To make a "parents as teachers" program work, school districts need:

1. Funds to extend contracts of regular employees to do annual testing and followup of preschool children.
2. Funds to employ staff members with early childhood education backgrounds to work with groups of parents in a school setting.
3. Funds to employ staff members with early childhood education backgrounds to work with parents of some preschool students in the homes of these parents and children. (These may be parents who do not have the mental capability and/or the time, energy, or desire to work with their children.)

Many of the parent skills needed to assist children are not complicated. It does not take long in a kindergarten class to identify those children who have been held, had someone read to them, who know their colors, and have developed physical dexterity. Properly instructed and motivated parents can do wonders in preparing a preschool child for the formal educational experience.

Preschool children are identified by HB 2218 as those who have not attained the age of three years. This definition seems to leave a gap, for four and five year olds which United School Administrators request the committee to consider.

*Attachment 16
House Education 2/16/89*



Kansas-NEA Testimony before
the House Education Committee
February 16, 1989
HB 2218

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee, my name is Kay Coles and I am here today representing the 22,000 members of Kansas-NEA. We appreciate the opportunity to speak with you in support of HB 2218.

As teachers, our members know that education does not exist solely within the schoolhouse. Parents are vital to the entire educational process of children, and the learning that goes on at home is essential to a child's success in school.

We believe parent education programs such as the ones you've heard about today can enhance our children's ability to enter school well-prepared for formal learning.

We also believe such programs would stimulate parental involvement in their children's education. A recent Carnegie Foundation study showed 86% of the teachers in Kansas believe lack of parental support is a problem in our schools. By involving parents early in the educational process of children, we hope they will remain interested and involved throughout the child's years in school.

As you know, early learning experiences can and will enhance a child's opportunity for success. Therefore, we would ask that you report HB 2218 favorably for passage.

Thank you.