

# CHIP Parents: The First Teachers

Building a Strong Foundation for a **Brighter Future**

**Children begin learning the day they are born.** They learn through looking, listening, touching, and tasting. They also learn by being talked to, read to, played with, and held. **By age 2, the brain is about 80% of its adult size.**

## OUR MISSION:

To improve young children's health and promote wellness and self-sufficiency in low-income families, through partnerships with local communities.

As a child grows, parents and caregivers play an increasingly vital role in their child's physical, cognitive, and social development. **Research shows that differences in parenting practices may account for up to 50% of the gap in school readiness between children.** This is why learning and cognitive stimulation at an early age is key to securing a brighter future.

Everyday experience is where early learning begins. When a mother says "you're eating 3 orange carrots," she is teaching her child about colors and numbers. When a father helps his child describe the pictures in a book, he is increasing his child's vocabulary and fostering a love of language.

But for many low-income families, the pressures of trying to just get by prevent them from providing these valuable everyday experiences.

**This is where CHIP comes in.** CHIP of Virginia, a statewide network of local home visiting programs, works to

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*Everyday experiences that happen at home have a major influence on a child's early learning.*



“She catches on so fast with the activities our outreach worker teaches. **It's exciting to watch her learn.** You can tell she is paying attention and taking it all in. **The Parents As Teachers curriculum is great because they give you several learning activities**

**to do in the home with your child.”**



- Tyresa, CHIP of Greater Richmond mother, and daughter LaTrese, 15 months

**82%** of children receiving **Parents As Teachers** entered school ready to learn, versus **64%** of children who did not receive PAT.\*



With CHIP's help and support,  
teaching moments happen every day.

## The Power of Early Learning: The Numbers Prove It.

**88%** of low-income children enrolled in PAT scored at a benchmark level on third-grade reading tests. Only **77%** of low-income children without PAT scored at the benchmark level.\*

Parents As Teachers, which costs \$1,475 per family each year, can save Virginia money by preventing situations that can lead to social and emotional problems, and poor school performance.

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improve children's health and promote wellness and self-sufficiency in low-income families. The **Parents As Teachers (PAT)** curriculum provided by CHIP shows parents how to be their child's first and most important teacher. With the help of PAT, children enter school ready to learn and succeed.

## How CHIP Helps: Empowering Parents

In 2006, recognizing the need for a research-based parenting program, CHIP began working with Virginia's Parent Information Referral Center and Healthy Families to incorporate Parents As Teachers into home visits. **This nationally recognized curriculum helps parents understand the essential role they play in their child's growth and development.**

CHIP outreach workers conduct PAT visits where they teach parents to use age appropriate developmental activities and techniques. They monitor children for appropriate growth and development, and teach hands-on activities parents can easily implement. Parents are provided with easy-to-understand reference materials and are connected to helpful community resources—**empowering them to become the experts on their child's development.**

\*The Parents As Teachers Program: Its Impact on School Readiness and Later School Achievement—A Research Summary, J. Pfannenstiel and E. Zigler. April 2007.



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