

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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