

NORTHEAST FAMILY CENTER PROUDLY PRESENTS:

PARENTS AS PARTNERS



A NEW, INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

WHAT IS PARENTS AS PARTNERS?

Our Parents as Partners project is a new, exciting take on traditional early childhood education.



- **FACT: Parents are a child's most influential teacher.**
- **FACT: Children are constantly learning, right from birth.**
- **FACT: Early years are the foundation for growth and development.**
- **FACT: Everyday moments are learning opportunities.**

Together, with parents, our staff will provide a comprehensive early childhood and parent education program that will ensure all children, and parents, have the skills and tools necessary to be successful.

The Parents as Partners project combines two Northeast Family Center programs:

1. **Early Learning Center**
2. **Parents as Teachers**

HOW IT WORKS...

Families enrolled in the program will benefit from both the **Early Learning Center (ELC)** and **Parents as Teachers (PAT)**. Both Parents as Teachers and The Creative Curriculum, utilized in the Early Learning Center, are research-based and nationally recognized programming for early childhood.

The **Early Learning Center** will provide a full-time, academic based early childhood education program for children 6wk-5yr, Monday-Friday, from 6:45am-6:00pm. In addition to being a licensed provider, the Early Learning Center has also begun the accreditation process with the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** which represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. **The Creative Curriculum**, utilized in the ELC, is a comprehensive, research based early childhood curriculum that has been shown to improve cognitive and social/emotional outcomes in young children. For young children, meaningful and long-lasting learning requires active thinking and experimenting to find out how things work. This is best accomplished through purposeful play facilitated by highly intentional teaching practices. The Creative Curriculum provides teachers guidance in the following areas: how children develop and learn, the learning environment, what children learn, the teacher's role and the family's role. The goals set forth in the curriculum, which is specifically designed for each age level from infancy-preschooler, address all aspects of development including:

- **Social/Emotional Development:** children's feelings about themselves, the development of responsibility, and their ability to relate positively to others.
- **Physical Development:** children's gross and fine motor development.
- **Cognitive Development:** children's thinking skills – the development of logical and symbolic thinking, problem-solving skills, and approaches to learning.
- **Language Development:** children's ability to communicate through words, both spoken and written.



The Creative Curriculum measures **50 objectives in 10 goal areas** including: sense of self, responsibility for self and others, pro-social behavior, gross motor, fine motor, learning and problem solving, logical thinking, representation and symbolic thinking, listening and speaking, and reading and writing. These objectives align with and also measure the Head Start domain elements and indicators. Teachers complete both individual child profiles as well as class summary worksheets three times throughout the year. They use this information to complete a **Child Progress and Planning Report** which, along with the Child Profile, is used as the basis of a family meeting with each family in the program. A **Family Conference Report** is completed together including next steps at both the program and at home.

Parents as Teachers is a nationally recognized parent education program providing **in-home visits** with a certified Parent Educator once per month. The Northeast Family Center is currently the sole provider of this service in Lincoln. The program ensures that parents gain the knowledge about child development necessary to help their children grow optimally during these critical early years, and that children gain the early childhood education necessary for school-readiness. The use of a structured, research-based curriculum founded on proved parenting practices fosters optimal development of parenting skills and strengthens the parent-child relationship. Core values around the PAT program include:



- The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.
- Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.
- Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.
- All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic, or economic considerations.
- An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

Our certified Parent Educator will provide developmentally appropriate lesson plans based on your child's exact age. Through the personal home visits our Parent Educator will conduct **screenings** at least twice a year (once is the PAT national standard) with each family. Screenings are done in two areas: developmental progress regarding cognitive, language, social-emotional, and motor skills as well as vision/hearing/health. During the screening parent educators will provide information about child's health and development progress through ongoing tracking of developmental milestones.

Parents as Partners will also host **monthly family nights** to promote networking opportunities and family time including guest speakers, family dinner and special events.

WHY WE DO IT:

Simple. It is important that we have a community that understands and supports the developmental needs of children birth-5. It is important that we prepare children with the skills necessary to start kindergarten, making it more likely they will graduate from high school. It is important that we work as closely as possible with each **family**, rather than with each **child**, to ensure future success in the classroom, at home and in life.

According to a recent study released in March of 2008 in the Journal of Primary Prevention, the Parents as Teachers model does, measurably, improve school readiness. Further, according to the researchers, kindergarten readiness is the most important significant predictor of third-grade achievement and far outweighs other demographic variables such as age, gender, poverty and minority status in predicting subsequent third-grade performance.

WHO IS IT FOR?



Parents as Partners is for any family with a child or children ages birth-5 years, even if there are older siblings. Families enroll in the program because they want to be actively involved with their child's education and development, right from the start, and have an opportunity to network with like-minded parents and educators.



A diverse population of families are served through this project, including a variety of cultures and income as well as education levels from G.E.D to PhD in Early Childhood Education! Recent research on the Parents as Teachers model refutes views that the program should be limited to high-poverty children, by showing that school readiness scores of non-poverty children are also enhanced through Parents as Teachers.

TUITION & REGISTRATION

Because of generous support from the United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County, Woods Charitable Fund and the Cooper Foundation, we are able to keep our tuition rates below average to ensure that all families have access to this opportunity. Further, scholarship assistance is available and Title XX is accepted.

Current Weekly Tuition Rates for the Early Learning Center, Effective June 1, 2008:

Infants (6wk-18mo) - \$158
Toddlers (18mo-3yr) - \$143
Preschoolers (3-5yr) - \$133



The Parents as Teachers program is included in the tuition rates above. At an average cost of \$1000/year per family, we are thankful to our generous funders that we are able to offer this program at no additional charge. Enrollment is based upon availability, and our program currently serves up to 40 children and their families. Contact our Program Directors today to schedule a tour and get a full information & enrollment packet.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program Director: Early Learning Center
Renee Foley, (402) 471-9030, Renee@NFCLincoln.org

Renee holds an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development and in her past role at Bryan LGH oversaw all aspects of a licensed childcare program. During her 13 years at Bryan, Renee had the opportunity to build a new childcare program from the ground up, preparing her for the role she serves in at NFC. While at Bryan, Renee took the childcare center through NAEYC Accreditation process. Her involvement with NFC began as a parent of a child enrolled in our Preschool, and proved to be a natural fit for the Program Director position when we started the Early Learning Center program.

Program Director: Parents as Teachers
Ramona Fink, (402) 471-9026, Ramona@NFCLincoln.org

Ramona holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education & Behavior Sciences as well as a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She has taught all ages and worked for both Elmwood Public and Lincoln Public Schools. Ramona has served on Committees and Boards in Lincoln dedicated to youth and families including YMCA Youth Council, Heartland Big Brothers/Big Sisters & Victorious Kid's Foundation. In 2006, she became certified through Parents as Teachers in both birth-age 3, and 3-kindergarden entry.



Northeast Family Center, 6220 Logan Avenue, Lincoln NE 68507, www.NFCLincoln.org
The Northeast Family Center is committed to building strong families and vital neighborhoods by educating, supporting and advocating for the diverse children and families of our community.