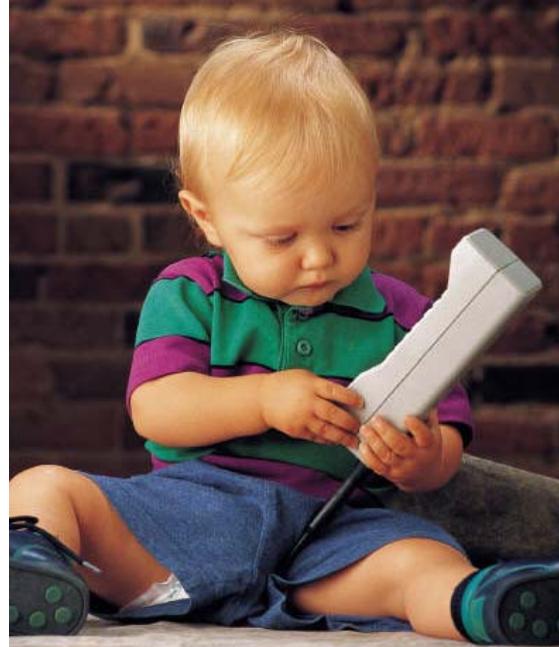




*A parent is a child's first and most important teacher.*

### *What is OPAT?*

OPAT is a free program for parents of children birth to age three. OPAT enables parents to become effective first teachers, and helps parents prepare their children for a successful school future.



### *Who Do I Contact?*

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Click on "Site Index," then "Oklahoma Parents As Teachers"



*...because learning starts early*

Oklahoma Parents  
as Teachers (OPAT)



## What Does OPAT Offer?

- ◆ Personalized visits
  - provide trained parent educators from your public school.
- ◆ Parent group meetings provide opportunities to
  - discuss developmental stages,
  - share parenting experiences, and
  - obtain information and activities to encourage your child's development.
- ◆ Resources and referrals
  - connect parents to community resources,
  - provide referrals to appropriate professionals in your community, and
  - use reliable, research-based curricula.
- ◆ Developmental screenings
- ◆ Early partnership between home and school
  - makes transitioning from home to school easier,
  - provides resources from the school district to support parenting, and
  - emphasizes the critical role parents have in school readiness.



*"The early years are when children discover windows to the vast world that lies before them."*  
~Ernest Boyer

## A Message from State Superintendent Sandy Garrett

Ernest Boyer of the Carnegie Foundation tells us in his report *Ready to Learn: A Mandate for the Nation* that, "from the moment of birth, youngsters begin exploring their world, extending their horizons. It is in the early years when children discover windows to the vast world that lies before them."

The Oklahoma State Department of Education supports parents as their child's first teachers in building foundations for living and learning. We are happy to assist you in this important task of giving your child the best possible start in life.



## Who Is Eligible?

Expectant parents and parents of children birth to three years old in participating school districts

## What Does OPAT Cost?

OPAT is a free program through the Oklahoma State Department of Education and your local public school district.



*...strengthening the capacity of parents to be effective first teachers*

It is the policy of the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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