



**NC Parents as Teachers Network
The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.
Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Model Fidelity
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the purpose of the model fidelity paper?

Model fidelity is the degree to which a program adheres to the program model design. To ensure model fidelity and best practice, NCPC has developed the Model Fidelity paper for Smart Start funded Parents as Teachers programs. The criteria for model fidelity comes directly from the PATNC Quality Standards.

When does the model fidelity paper take effect?

The model fidelity paper should guide practice beginning FY0809

Target Population

What is meant by “families participating in PAT should not be court ordered or substantiated for reported abuse or neglect”?

PAT should not be used as the sole intervention strategy for families that have been substantiated for child abuse or neglect. PAT is also not an appropriate intervention for families who have been court ordered to participate in parenting classes, however, families can voluntarily participate in PAT. PAT is appropriate as the parent education piece of a larger intervention strategy.

What happens to enrolled families who have an open DSS case or are substantiated for child abuse or neglect? Should we drop them from the program?

No, families already enrolled in PAT should not be dropped unless the family asks to be exited from the program or they no longer meet the program’s policy for participation.

Can PAT programs accept referrals from DSS?

Yes, however, it is important for PAT programs to clarify their role, establishing the boundaries of the services they can provide.

Group Meetings

Are families required to attend 6 group meetings?

No, group meeting participation is voluntary. Programs will be required to provide a minimum of 6 group meetings annually.

Developmental Screenings

Can we partner with the Health Department, or another outside agency, to provide screenings or does the parent educator need to do that directly?

Yes, an outside agency can perform the developmental screenings if you have a written agreement that states they will share the results with you.

If children receive a developmental screening from an outside agency, such as their pediatrician or health department, can we also do a screening?

If children receive a developmental screening from an outside agency and the PAT program decides not to perform additional screening, programs need to obtain a written agreement with the family and outside agency that would provide screening results to the parent educator. Parent educators will support families referred for further services. The ASQ can still be administered as a part of the regularly scheduled lesson plan and used as a teaching tool with the parent.

Program Outcomes

What measurement tool will we be using for “positive parenting practices”?

NCPC is still determining which measurement tools will be used by PAT programs.

What should we include in our FY0809 proposals for our program outcomes?

Three required outcomes and one optional outcome have been determined by NCPC based on the goals of PAT and the logic model. However, specific outcome numbers and a measuring tool have not yet been determined. *Programs should write in the FY0809 proposals that the outcome measures are to be determined.*

Parent Educator

What is the recommended caseload?

The caseload recommendation refers to number of visits rather than number of families. All families should receive at least monthly visits. Families with more than one risk factor and teen parents are recommended to receive bi-weekly visits. One FTE Parent educators should average 30 visits per month, not to exceed 40 visits per month. The maximum number of visits per week is 15.

Further questions about the model fidelity paper should be addressed to

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