

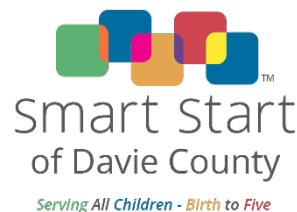
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SMART START OF DAVIE COUNTY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS A BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE**

*Smart Start of Davie County's Parents as Teachers program successfully completes the Quality Endorsement and Improvement process with the Parents as Teachers national office.*

The Davie County local program earned a prestigious endorsement by Parents as Teachers national center as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, making it one of the top performing early education and home visiting affiliates within the international Parents as Teachers network. The official designation was made on October 1, 2017.

Being named a Blue Ribbon Affiliate affirms that Smart Start of Davie County is a high-quality member of the home visitation and parent education field, implementing the evidence-based Parents as Teachers model with fidelity. Families in the Davie County community are positively impacted by the services delivered by this program, which include home visits, group connections, child screening and connections to community resources. These services equip parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children for a stronger start in life and greater success in school. Smart Start of Davie County serves all children birth to five years of age.

To earn this recognition, over the past year staff at the local partnership completed the intensive Quality Endorsement and Improvement process through the Parents as Teachers national center. Smart Start of Davie County demonstrated that it meets all of the Parents as Teachers Essential Requirements and at least 75 percent of the Parents as Teachers Quality Standards. The designation as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate is good for five years, until September 30, 2021 as long as the program continues to meet the Essential Requirements.

The Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process is designed to help ensure and recognize quality implementation of the Parents as Teachers model, which is used in more than 1,300 organizations including schools, family resource centers, social service agencies, housing authorities, churches, and healthcare systems.

The national office identified Smart Start of Davie County's greatest accomplishments as early detection and screening of children and connecting families to resources in the community. Smart Start of Davie County would like to recognize Susan McBride, our lead Parent Educator, for taking our Parents as Teachers program to this level. Susan goes beyond to advocate for families and children in our community.

***About Parents as Teachers***

Parents as Teachers is an international, non-profit organization that promotes optimal early development, learning and health of young children. Parents as Teachers provides an evidence-based home visiting model and is a center for innovation in promising practices. Parents as Teachers designs and develops quality research-based and evidence-informed curricula and trainings for early childhood family support professionals.

We support evidence based model implementation by our local partners through professional development, implementation support, continuous quality improvement and a quality endorsement process. We facilitate data collection, analysis, evaluation and research to deepen and demonstrate our impact in communities. Lastly, we advocate for children and families at the state and federal level through community engagement.

For more information, visit [www.daviesmartstart.org](http://www.daviesmartstart.org) or call 336.751.2113 to enroll today!



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