HISTORY & OVERVIEW

Child & Family Services has been servicing the community since 1843. We are a comprehensive agency offering a wide range of counseling and community support services. These include specialty clinics, individual, group and family therapy, psychological testing, psychiatric consultation, adoption services and community youth support.

Child & Family Services’ commitment is to serve the community with the highest respect and professionalism.

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
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Child & Family Services’ mission is “...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families.”
Parents As Teachers (PAT) is a modeled certified program that emphasizes parent-child interaction, development centered parenting, and family well-being.

The PAT program works with parents from prenatal to kindergarten age by doing family centered assessments and following a structured curriculum.

Each participant is assigned a certified Parent Educator. A certified Parent Educator will do four interrelated and integrated components to the PAT model:

1. Personal Visits
2. Group Connections
3. Screening
4. Resource Networking

The PAT model is designed to achieve four primary goals:

1. Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development & improve parenting practice
2. Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
3. Prevent child abuse and neglect
4. Increase children’s school readiness and school success

In PAT, family-centered assessments serve as a strategy to get to know and understand the family, their resources, and their needs. Family-centered assessments will give the certified Parent Educators a snapshot of the family which helps with goal setting and delivering services.

To enroll in the PAT program, the parent must meet some simple requirements:

- Reside in the city of New Bedford or Fall River or surrounding towns
- Be pregnant or have a child up to kindergarten age (age 5)
- Be present for and participate actively in all scheduled visits
- Attend group connections

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)