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# Danielle Wilhite Is PAT September Student of the Month

SEPTEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

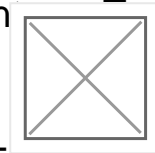
**Bernie, Missouri.** The Parents as Teachers in Bernie has selected Danielle Wilhite as Student of the Month for September.

Dani is three years old and her guardians are Sandy and Tim Summers.

Some of Dani's favorite things to do are playing on the piano and singing, going to church, sorting things, beading, and listening to stories from the books Mrs. McGarity brings to her.

Sandy says, "Dani looks forward to our Parents as Teachers visits and loves all the extra attention!"

If you would like to know more about Parents as Teachers contact Courtney



McGarity or Casey Arnold at 573-293-5335 or 573-293-5335, ext 293 or find them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website. For more information click [HERE](#).

**[Our Vision](#)**

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

### **Our Mission**

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

### **Our Values**

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.

### **History**

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant—and widely applicable—to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year [strategic plan](#), which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

LAST UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 16TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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