

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT

PARENT CHILD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Since 1973, AVANCE's core program has been supporting families with young children on their educational journey toward economic mobility.

ORGANIZATION

AVANCE

LOCATION

TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA

FOCUS AREA



CHILDCARE & CAREGIVING

THE ISSUE

The earliest years are a crucial time for a child's development. Yet too often, early education programs are not reflective of the needs, lived experience, and strengths of the families they serve.

THE SOLUTION

Founded in 1973 and led by Ascend Fellow Dr. Teresa Granillo, AVANCE has reached more than 200,000 families through its signature Parent Child Education Program (PCEP). PCEP takes a two-generation (2Gen) approach, integrating parenting education, early childhood development, and community engagement so children are school-ready and supported at home — and parents have the tools and resources to advance their economic mobility.

The results are clear. In 2024–25, PCEP served more than 3,500 children and families across Texas and California. Eighty-one percent of parents demonstrated stronger parent-child interactions, and children met or exceeded key developmental milestones.

12X

Children who participate in PCEP with their caregivers are 12 times more likely to pass their kindergarten readiness assessments.

The 9-month program is designed around four components:

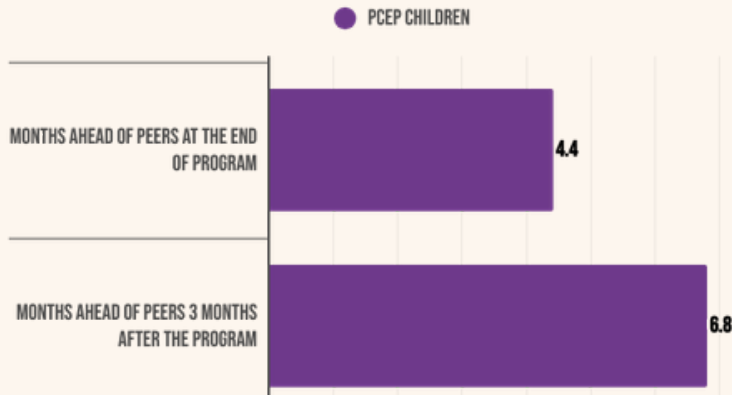
- A parenting curriculum built on brain science in early childhood
- Toy-making curriculum designed to increase brain development
- Connecting families with community resources
- Home visits that support positive parent-child interactions

DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES

Families — including parents who later became staff — have shaped the Parent-Child Education Program from the beginning. To date, almost 50% of PCEP staff are alumni of the program. While most instruction still takes place in-person, PCEP also recently began offering a virtual option that has proven to be a valuable – and still effective – option for parents.

62%

62 percent of parents in PCEP reported an increase in parent connectedness.



ACCELERATING THE SOLUTION

From 2022 to 2025, the Kinder Institute at Rice University conducted a randomized control trial assessing the program's impact over three years. Developmentally, children who participated in PCEP were 4.4 months ahead of their peers when the program ended – and 6.8 months ahead of their peers three months after the program, showing the strong, lasting effect of PCEP. AVANCE's goal is to reach 10,000 participants by 2028.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **PCEP has a proven track record.** The program has reached more than 200,000 parents and children since 1973.
- **The program gets results.** Research shows that children in PCEP are developmentally ahead of their peers.

- **It's time for acceleration.** AVANCE is on track to reach 10,000 PCEP participants by 2028.

To learn more, please contact:

TK NAME
TK ORGANIZATION
TK EMAIL

WHAT IS FORWARD WITH FAMILIES?

Forward With Families is a nationwide initiative powered by Ascend at the Aspen Institute to amplify programs, policies, and initiatives that make life affordable, economic mobility possible, and security attainable for every family in America. By lifting up what's already working across the Ascend Community, Forward With Families drives leaders at every level to act on solutions proven to ensure resources go farthest for the children and families who need them most.



THE PATTERSON FAMILY