



HISTORY AND BRIEF ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Start at Zero (SAZ) was founded in 2013 by two Kansas City mothers, completed a two-year pilot program funded by the Kauffman Foundation and received 501(c)3 status in August 2016. Partnering with parents and caregivers of children prenatal to age five, SAZ offers holistic early childhood programming producing short-term academic, socio-emotional, health, social gains and family stability, paired with long-term benefits.

SAZ's signature Home Visiting program utilizes the nationally-recognized, evidence-based Parents as Teachers® (PAT) curriculum and Developmental Screenings using the standardized Ages and Stages Questionnaires. SAZ is a PAT affiliate, and the only one operating in the Kansas City Public Schools attendance boundaries.

Other SAZ programming includes Group Connections (community playgroups and interactive learning experiences), Parent Café (parent conversation series), childcare provider coaching, and the Family and Community Leadership Program. All SAZ programming (except the leadership program) is free and open to all - in both policy and practice. Since inception, SAZ has partnered with hundreds of children and families.

In 2021, SAZ transitioned from its Founder-Executive Director, Angela DeWilde, and welcomed Dr. Jumesha Wade as its new lead. SAZ is in a capacity-building season, and continues to achieve impact through innovation, responding to feedback, and adhering to lean practices.

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