Fathers and Education

When fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their education, children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Even when fathers do not share a home with their children, their active involvement can have a lasting and positive impact. There are countless ways to be involved in your child’s education at all ages. This section of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse website highlights some of them.

According to a 2007 National Center for Education Statistics Report:

- 92% of students in grades K through 12 had parents who reported receiving any information from the school on the student’s performance.
- 83% had parents who received any information about how to help with homework.
- 59% of students in grades K through 12 had parents who were “very satisfied” with their child’s school; 55% had parents who were very satisfied with the school’s parent-staff interactions.

Consider ways that your program can partner with local schools and Head Start programs to better engage dads in their child’s education. The Collaboration Strategies page (http://fatherhood.gov/for-programs/getting-started/collaboration-strategies) has some resources to help you think about general partnerships.

For more information on tips and ways to encourage the fathers in your program to get involved, visit the Get Involved with School page (http://fatherhood.gov/for-dads/tips-and-activities/with-school).

Quick Tips for Dads

- Check your child’s homework, make sure to see what was assigned, not just what was finished.
- Join a parent organization at your child’s school, like the PTA, to show your child that you care about how he or she does in school.
- Be a chaperone at your child’s next school function or field trip.
- Talk regularly with your child’s coaches, teachers, and club leaders.
- Volunteer with your child’s sports team. Bring water, or oranges to a game, or help keep score.
- Get everyone in the family a library card, and start visiting! Not sure where the nearest library is, try searching online, or ask your child’s teachers.

Other Relevant Resources

Department of Education: http://www.ed.gov/parents
Find information on education policies that affect your kids, homework help tips (in English and Spanish), tips on monitoring homework, and lots of helpful tools!

National Head Start Association: http://www.nhsa.org/
The National Head Start Association is a private not-for-profit membership organization dedicated exclusively to meeting the needs of Head Start children and their families. The site includes resources, research, and conference information.

National PTA: http://www.pta.org/
The national PTA website includes links to PTA programs, conference information and a male involvement section.

Reading is Fundamental: http://www.rif.org/
Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most. Website includes a page for kids, and one for parents, including book suggestions by age group.

Especially for Parents: http://www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml?src=pn
U.S. Department of Education resource specifically designed to help parents be more involved with their children’s education from homework help to understanding special needs to preparing for college.

Key Things Parents Can Do To Make Sure Their Children Are Prepared For The 21st Century: http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/prepared.html
U.S. Department of Education sponsored guide following No Child Left Behind guidelines and tips for parents to help their children in school.

Choices for Parents sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education with resources specifically designed to help Hispanic families, including resources in Spanish.

ARTICLE SOURCE: http://fatherhood.gov/for-programs/for-your-fathers/fathers-and-education
In June We Celebrate Fathers in Education!

Spending Time with Your Child

I’m sure that you have all heard the statement, “they don’t have a manual that comes with your child when they are born on how to be a parent”. There still isn’t a manual, but there are some cheat sheets. The NRFC’s Fatherhood Buzz Tip cards can be found online, and may be at your local barbershop. Barbershops are safe havens where men gather to get a haircut and talk about life’s events. What are the tips? They are simple and straightforward.

Spend time with your children. Each moment can create positive memories.

Always keep your promises. It builds and maintains trust with your children.

Celebrate and praise your children’s accomplishments. It will increase their confidence and encourage them to keep trying.

Tell both your sons and daughters that you love them. Not just for what they do. But for whom they are.

Spend time...Sometimes as parents we don’t realize how important spending time with our children is. Little moments mean a lot. My father was a Union Pacific Railroad waiter. The family used to see him off at the front door when he was going out on the road. At eight years of age Daddy always let me carry his suitcase. After kissing my mother, older sister and younger brother goodbye he would say to me, “Take care of everybody. You are the man of the house.”

Looking back on it now I realize that Daddy did not consider me to be a man. But for that brief period in time he taught me about what a man is supposed to do to keep his family safe. Those words have stayed with me for a lifetime.

Keep your promises...One of the first things that fathers can teach their child is how to trust. An infant develops trust when his cries are met with a clean diaper, a bottle or by holding her securely in her father’s arms. Children thrive on consistency. Continue to be there for them to meet their needs. Keeping your promises completes the bridge between the development of trust to a child with integrity.

Praise your child for their accomplishments. If you tell her she is smart, pretty, good, kind and trustworthy, they will believe it themselves. Why? Because Daddy said so! It will give them the courage to persevere when life throws them a curve.

Always tell your sons and daughters that you love them. A father’s demonstration of love for his daughter will keep them from looking for love in all the wrong places when they get older. Dads, please remember this. Showing your affection and telling him you love him will not make him soft. Those three words are money in the bank that they can draw from to enrich their lives and those close to them.

There really isn’t a manual that comes with the birth of your child. But, the Fatherhood Buzz Tips for Fathers helps to lay the foundation... and your time, promises, praise and love are the building blocks for their future.

Dr. Ronald Banks, Project Fatherhood, Children’s Institute.

PEATC Workshops and Events: June 2013

Monday, June 3, 2013-How to Talk so Schools will Listen and Listen so Schools will Talk (Presented in Spanish), 10:00am-12 noon, Congregacion Hispana de Ladysmith, 18290 Jefferson Davis Highway, Ruther Glen, VA 22546. Contact Daniela 703-923-0010 for more information.

Tuesday, June 11, 2013-How to Talk so Schools will Listen and listen so Schools will Talk (Presented in Spanish), 11:30am-1:00pm, Greenbrier Learning Center, 926 South Buchanan Gardens, Arlington, VA 22204. Contact Sarah Levin 703-963-1632 for more information.

Tuesday, June 11, 2013-Life Skill Development and Educational Opportunities Workshop and Vendor Fair, 7-9pm, Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, Va 22031. Contact Carey Alford CALford@financialguide.com 703-865-6502 to register by June 10.

Saturday, June 15, 2013-Planning for a Special Future, 10:00am-1:00pm, Warrenton Community Center, 430 East Shirley Avenue, Warrenton, VA 20186.
It’s hard to be a parent. That’s why Father’s Day is so important. It gives us an opportunity to thank dads who are active in their children’s lives—who accept the challenges of raising a family and reap the benefits of their children growing up in a loving environment. Today, one out of every three children in America is living without a father in the home—about 24 million kids in this country.

Studies have shown that children without a father in the home are two to three times more likely than children with active, involved fathers to live in poverty, use drugs and engage in criminal behavior. These children are also more likely to become victims of child abuse, and experience emotional, health and education problems.

The Administration for Children and Families is working with its programs across the agency to help low-income fathers meet their commitments to their children. Our Office of Child Support Enforcement helps create stable and healthy environments for children and parents by collaborating with federal, state, tribal and local governments to run the nation’s child support program. OCSE has launched a Family-Centered initiative to encourage child support programs around the county to set accurate support orders based upon a noncustodial parent’s ability to pay them and to link parents to job services, financial education, and co-parenting services. By removing barriers and encouraging positive parental involvement, more children will be able to count on emotional and financial support from both parents. Check out the OCSE website for more information about this initiative: http://transition.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocse.

In the Office of Family Assistance, our Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood initiative has awarded 120 grants to organizations, including nonprofits that work to strengthen relationships and marriage between individuals, couples and fathers and their children.

The healthy marriage grants provide services, which include counseling, financial management and conflict resolution classes. The fatherhood component promotes the economic stability of fathers through employment skills and subsidized employment, responsible parenting classes, and promoting healthy marriage.

In the Administration for Native Americans, its Strengthening Families Initiative funds culturally relevant strategies to strengthen families and promote family preservation, foster child well-being, responsible parenting and healthy relationship skills. Responsible Fatherhood projects that provide education and activities to fathers to help them overcome barriers to positive involvement in their children’s lives are also supported in this program.

And finally, the Office of Community Services has collaborated with the child support office to implement the Building Assets for Fathers and Families Initiative. This program extends the benefits of financial education, matched savings accounts called Individual Development Accounts, to parents with young children. The child support office awarded seven three-year BAFF demonstration grants that fund partnerships between child support enforcement agencies, Assets for Independence grantees, and fatherhood organizations to identify effective strategies for increasing the financial stability of children and their parents.

While ACF works hard to lift families out of poverty and into a stable and successful environment, we are also finding ways to sustain that stability and success by helping men truly become fathers in the process.

Check out the latest initiative to increase responsible Fatherhood across America: http://fatherhood.gov/fatherhood-buzz.

Special Resources for Special Dads

ARTICLES

WHAT MY FATHER MEANS TO ME: Despite a disability, one man is able to live life to its fullest — thanks to his dad

Fatherhood and ADHD: http://www.daddietimes.org/article/5983

How My Husband Dealt With Our Son’s Autism

PAUL PAUCA dreams up app to communicate with disabled son
http://nbclatino.com/2012/09/18/innovation/
paul-pauca-robo-comunicador-app-to-help-his-son/

Parenting a Child with Special Needs

Involving dads in the life of their special needs child


Happy Father’s Day to a Special Needs Dad
http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/06/13/happy-fathers-day-to-a-special-needs-dad/

Confessions of a Special Need’s Dad: http://abilitytree.org/confessions-of-a-special-needs-dad/

Accepting a Disabled Child: A Message of Hope
http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=898&Itemid=56

PRESENTATIONS

Fathers of Children with Special Needs Workshop
http://www.inclusivechildcare.org/SelfStudy/informod/fathers_of_children_with_special_needs.html

GROUPS/BLOGS

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities Parent Groups
http://niecy.org/families-community/help/parentgroups

Dads 4 Special Kids (D4SK)
http://dads4specialkids.com/

The National Center for Fathering
http://fathers.com/

MochaDad: ONE FATHER’S QUEST TO BE A BETTER DAD
http://mochaad.com/

Disability Scoop: Parenting & Caregiving
http://www.disabilityscoop.com/living/parenting-caregiving/

Parents of Special Needs Kids Meetup Groups
http://speecneddads.meetup.com/
May is the month to show some Teacher Appreciation!

Involved Fathers – The Key To Better School Grades (And More)

If you are a father, you are probably aware that this role has changed significantly over the past couple of decades or so. Your parent function is no longer limited to being the breadwinner and primary disciplinarian. Today, the focus is on increasing parent involvement, and the father parent must take a hands-on approach to parenting. This, of course, includes the child’s education. Fathers who genuinely involve themselves in their children’s schooling whether it's homework help or involvement with school sports make a huge difference. However, their influence in this aspect of their child’s life does not begin with direct involvement in school-related issues.

Fathers have a different parenting approach from that of mothers. That is as it should be – research has proved that the male influence plays a vital role in a child’s life, bringing with it a separate and important set of values. When it comes to the child’s schooling, the impact that the father parent has begins from the nature of his basic relationship with his child. It has been found that involved dads directly contribute to the child’s success at school, and it is not just about helping with homework or being present for the local PTA meeting or parent teacher interviews.

It is fathers who spend quality time with their children at home who make the biggest contribution to their child’s education. This is because such fathers give their kids focus, a sense of security and a desire to achieve. While these are obviously not attributes imparted solely by the male figure in a child’s life, the fact remains that parents bring very different and complimentary components of them to the parenting table.

The direct and indirect benefits of healthy father-child relationship dynamics on the child’s school life are tremendous. Children of involved fathers show much higher academic scores, have superior verbal skills and cognitive competence, participate in more extracurricular activities and generally enjoy school more. Additionally, the parent-teacher interaction (for both parents) is positive because both parents are aware of their child’s school progress.

That said, increasing the father’s positive impact on the child’s school life must be the result of a collective decision by both parents. This decision must be enforced whenever necessary. Most elementary school and high school teachers still display a tendency to contact the child’s mother when something needs looking into.

Once it has been agreed that the father should play a more active role in the child’s education, the mother must ensure that such calls are taken by the father at least some of the time.

Attendance of local PTA meetings and other school events as well as helping out with homework should also be more or less equally divided among both parents. Such and similar measures ensure that both the school authorities and the child understand that the father is an active, involved and decision-making entity in the child’s education.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Arun Chitnis writes for http://www.parentella.com Parentella, a private communication platform for parents and teachers. By facilitating a parent-teacher relationship, we enhance conversations between parents and teachers. Visit us for a private, safe, and secure experience in communicating with your child’s educationists.

LATINO CORNER

Trabajo y Familia, Flexibilidad Laboral, Consejos y Balance
Deja el trabajo en el trabajo. Se lo más eficiente que puedas durante horas en el trabajo, así evitarás llevar trabajo a casa, pero si aún así tienes que trabajar de casa, puedes hacerlo mientras tus hijos duermen.

Escribe una lista de los obstáculos que te impiden mantener un buen balance entre tu familia y tu trabajo. Es importante que tu tengas claro que situaciones quieres mejorar tanto en el trabajo como en la casa.

Investiga que opciones y beneficios te ofrece tu trabajo. Muchas veces los empleados no aprovechan de los beneficios y flexibilidad que existen en el código de las empresas porque no saben cuáles son, o porque tienen que los vean como deseables a la empresa. No tengas miedo. Estos beneficios te pertenecen; conéctales y utilizalos.

Establece una comunicación clara con tu jefe acerca de la importancia de tu familia y la flexibilidad que esperas poder tener para atender bien, tanto la familia, como el trabajo...

Establece una comunicación clara con tu pareja acerca de las necesidades y expectativas de cada uno. Reserva un tiempo razonable para tu familia: juegos, salidas, comidas...

Comprométete a cumplirlo y asegúrate de que tus hijos sepan que estás separando un tiempo especial para ellos.

Esta información proviene del Centro Nacional de Información para la Paternidad Responsable http://www.fatherhood.gov/espanol/balance

© EducationWorld

In 1880, President Rutherford B. Hayes was the first president to travel to California.

President William Howard Taft was the last president to own a cow and the first to own an automobile.

The tallest U.S. president was Abe Lincoln at 6’4”. James Madison was the shortest at 5’4’.

Work and Family, Flexibility at Work, Advice and Balance
Leave work at work. Be the most efficient possible during work hours that way you will avoid taking work home, but even if you still have to work at home, consider working while the children are sleeping.

Write a list of all the obstacles that hinder you from maintaining a good balance between your family and your work. It is important that you clearly know what situations you want to improve at work as well as at home.

Research what options and benefits your job offers. Many times employees do not take full advantage of the benefits and flexibility that exist in their workplace because they do not know what they are or because they fear being seen as disloyal to the company. Don’t be afraid. These benefits belong to you, know and use them.

Establish a common understanding between you and your boss about your family’s importance and the flexibility that you hope to have to attend to your job and your family...

Establish a common understanding with your wife about the needs and expectations each has for the other.

Set aside a reasonable amount of time with your family for games, outings, and food. Commit to doing it and make sure your children know that you are setting apart special time to spend with them.

This information was published in Spanish by the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse http://www.fatherhood.gov/espanol/balance