



Involving Fathers

When fathers are involved in caregiving, children benefit

**socially,
emotionally, and
cognitively.**

Many factors discourage fathers from becoming more involved with their children:

- ☒ work commitments
- ☒ general belief of family and friends that it is the mother's responsibility
- ☒ mothers "protecting" their domain
- ☒ lack of self-confidence

How to Promote Father Involvement:

- ① Address questions and comments regarding the child to both fathers and mothers. If you do not see the father in person, make sure that notes home address both persons.

- ③ Have parent conferences and meetings at times that both fathers and mothers can be present. Basing your appointment exclusively on the time schedule of the mother can serve to exclude the father.
- ③ Encourage both fathers and mothers to participate in child-centered activities offered through your organization.
- ④ Do not force fathers to be involved. To foster a child's development, father involvement needs to be the desire of the father, and of the family as a unit. By pressing father involvement, you may actually serve to discourage it.

Adapted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC, Smith, C.A. (1982). *Father's Care*. [Extension Publication L-650] Manhattan, KS: Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service.

For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

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Parent Involvement, Parent Tip Sheets, #3: Involving Fathers

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