A Father’s Connection Beyond Responsibility: Using Findings to Promote Father Engagement

When fathers are involved......

- Toddlers become better problem solvers
- Children cope better with stress
- Kids are more prosocial behavior
- Children do better academically
- As well as have higher self-esteem and self-confidence

Best Practices for Engaging Fathers

- Use the terms “dad” or “father”.
- Tell mothers about the important role fathers play in their child’s development.
- Build relationships early on!
- Make language and images inclusive to fathers
- Your caring relationships can equip fathers to do the same with their child
- Remind fathers about how important it is for them to be a social provider.
- Provide alternative ways to keep dads involved.

Specific Barriers to Fathers Involvement:

Fathers
- Policy Barriers
- Paternity leave
- Notion Mothers know best

Fathers of Color
- Stereotypes
- Institutionalized Racism
- Mass Incarceration
- Language Barriers

Low-Income Fathers Experience Specific Barriers
- Mothers “Gatekeeping” Behaviors
- Documentation Status
- Economic Restraints
- Lack of Education
- Employments

Take Aways:

Capitalize on their strengths!

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