

[Paths to Father Involvement: The Early Head Start Fatherhood Demonstration in Its Third Year](#) (2002)

Research has shown that children with involved fathers demonstrate greater school readiness, higher levels of empathy, increased cognitive development, and other positive characteristics. Members of the Head Start Community and policymakers will benefit from this report on research findings that highlight the strategies adopted by the twenty-one Early Head Start fatherhood demonstration projects. The report focuses on the third year of the demonstration, the evaluation of program practices, perceived results from the programs, and the sustainability of these projects. [Read more online](#)

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Access these documents and more on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center at [www.ECLKC.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.ECLKC.ohs.acf.hhs.gov). Select: **National Center of Parent, Family, and Community Engagement > Family and Community Partnerships > Parent-Family Engagement > Fatherhood**

Fathers can help early child care programs become more effective in achieving positive outcomes for children. Early child care programs can help strengthen the partnering partnership, and support fathers in being more effective in their children’s lives.

— *Building Blocks for Father Involvement: Appreciating How Fathers Give Children a Head Start*

# Fatherhood Resources

Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center  
[www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov)



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Head Start



### [National Fatherhood Clearinghouse](#)

The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) is a service of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Family Assistance (OFA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NRFC captures information about policies, priorities, trends, research findings, promising practices, and emerging lessons from the field and helps key audiences translate that knowledge into policies and practices that make a difference for fathers, children, families, and communities. [Find out more](#)

### [Head Start Approaches to Strengthening Families](#) (2010)

(Healthy Marriage Brochure)

In 2007, the Office of Head Start and 24 participating grantees launched the Healthy Marriage and Family Initiative (HMFII) to help stabilize and strengthen the home environments of children and families. Head Start and Early Head Start program staff may explore the initiative's strategies to help strengthen the families they serve. [Read more online](#)

### [Fatherhood Resource Guide](#) (Updated 2010)

The Fatherhood Initiative is intended to strengthen the role of fathers in families. This resource guide stresses that strong families are essential to the future of the nation, and that both mothers and fathers play essential roles in ensuring the well-being of their children. [Read more online](#)

### [Fatherhood First](#) (2009)

The Fatherhood First posters, funded under the Office of Head Start's Innovation and Improvement Projects, can be displayed in Head Start Centers as an outward demonstration of support and encouragement for fathers and other men to become more involved in your program. Program staff may use the language associated with each poster as talking points or as conversation starters for fathers and other males who might be interested in your program. [Read more online](#)

### [Fathers for Life](#) (2008)

This resource was developed under an Innovation and Improvement Project grant from the Office of Head Start with the goal to encourage and support positive relationships of families with infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children of incarcerated fathers or fathers on probation or parole. Head Start programs may find this resource useful. [Read more online](#)

### [The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy Development of Children](#) (2006)

*The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy Development of Children* manual recognizes the vital role that fathers play in all aspects of their children's lives. The purpose of the manual is to help caseworkers support meaningful outcomes for the entire family. Five principles describe how to reach the goal of family-centered practice. [Read more online](#)

### [Building Blocks for Father Involvement](#) (2004)

Father involvement has a unique impact on children's outcomes such as cognitive development, achievement, math and reading scores, and behavior. Father involvement coordinators, parent involvement specialists, and other staff members who work with families may find these guidebooks and videos useful as it provides insight into why fathers are important in their children's lives and concludes with how to build a fatherhood program in your community. [Read more online](#)

### [Father Factor Videos](#) (2004)

Research indicates that what children desire most from their fathers is quality time, Supportive behavior, expressions of love and physical contact. Staff who work with fathers may use these video clips from *The Father Factor: National Head Start Institute on Father Involvement* to inspire fathers during discussion sessions and workshops. [Read more online](#)

### [Dedicated to Dads: Lessons from the Early Head Start](#)

#### [Fatherhood Demonstration](#) (2002)

In February 2001, the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) partnered with the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) to fund 21 Early Head Start fatherhood demonstration projects. Selected through a competitive process, the demonstration grantees were funded for three years to develop and implement creative practices that would lead to increased involvement of fathers in Early Head Start programs and in the lives of their children. [Read more online](#)