

# Learning Through Play

How can a father contribute to his child's growth and development while playing with a ball? Keep the domains of development in mind. Write your answers in chat.

		CENTRAL DOMAINS				
		APPROACHES TO LEARNING	SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	COGNITION	PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
▲ INFANT/TODDLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development	
● PRESCHOOLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication Literacy	Mathematics Development Scientific Reasoning	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development	

- **Approaches to Learning** focuses on how children learn; the skills and behaviors that children use to engage in learning
- **Social development** refers to a child's ability to create and sustain meaningful relationships with adults and other children. **Emotional development** refers to a child's ability to express, recognize, and manage their own emotions as well as respond appropriately to others' emotions
- **Language and literacy development** refers to emerging abilities in listening, understanding, and using language.
- **Cognitive development** includes reasoning, memory, problem-solving, and thinking skills that help young children understand and organize their world. For preschoolers, this evolves into complex mathematical thinking and scientific reasoning.
- **Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development** is foundational to children's learning in all areas because it permits children to fully explore and function in their environment.



## Engaging Fathers in their Children's Learning and Development

June 22, 2017

Fatherhood Connection Series

## Meet the Presenters



David Jones  
OHS Father  
Engagement Specialist



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Smart from the Start



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## Learning Objectives

- Recognize the value of engaged fathers in children's school readiness and overall learning and development
- Apply strategies to partner with fathers to engage with their children and to support their learning and development
- Learn strategies and exemplary practices from fatherhood champions in the community

## Chat With Us

- What does a father's engagement in his child's learning look like?  
How would you describe what you see?



## Strategies for Engagement

What Programs Can do to Support Fathers in the Early Years

## Early Infancy



- Support caregiving activities; take advantage of routines to build relationships
  - Singing during diapering
  - Focused gaze during feeding
  - Supporting breastfeeding mothers
  - Hold your baby

**“... He slept for days and I didn't know he had eyeballs or what -- ... [the first time I got to lay down with him] we just stared at each other for an hour and I was just blown away. I thought that was just the coolest thing, you know, I'm studying every detail of his face and he's doing the same thing back to me. ...it's just so amazing. I just spend hours thinking 'Is that my nose? Are those my ears?' “**

## Later Infancy



- Talk to them
  - Share observations of your environment
  - Introduce new words and ways of using them
- Practice motor skills (standing, jumping, kicking)
- Read books, tell stories
- Let your child lead the interaction

**One perfect spring day as I sat on my deck, I looked up from the book I was reading to see my daughter, then 2 1/2, nose-to-nose with the daffodils in our garden. Bending from one flower to another, she gave each of them a gentle kiss. Swamped with love and pride that I had produced such a sweet and tender child, I rushed to sit beside her. That's when she calmly turned, looked me straight in the eye, and said, "Go away, I don't want you here. I want Daddy."**

- Margery D. Rosen, "Pushing Your Buttons"

## Toddlerhood



- Play, play, play . . . and discovery
- Encourage exploration (toys, food)
- Be prepared to be imitated

## Preschool



- Support academic development
- Allow fathers to “drop in” to the classroom
- Describe how any activity can present a learning opportunity

## Closing Thoughts

- Follow the father's lead
- Leave judgment aside
- Enjoy your child; feel comfortable; show love
- Be playful
- Mothers and fathers are BOTH important in early years

## Head Start Father Engagement Birth to Five Programming Guide



- <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/father-engage-programming.pdf>

## Next Steps



## Survey and Certificates

- Give us your feedback, get a certificate!





## Let's Stay Connected

- Stay on until **4:15 pm EDT** to continue chat discussions with the presenters
- Become a Fatherhood Champion! Contact David Jones for details



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Parent, Family and Community Engagement

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