

# Lobby Ice Breaker

If you had one hour of free time, how would you spend it?



## Welcoming Fathers: Program Environment and Strong Family Partnerships

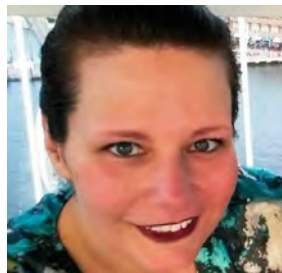
May 25, 2017

Fatherhood Connection Series

## Meet the Presenters



David Jones  
OHS Father  
Engagement Specialist



Brandi Black Thacker  
NCPFCE



Jermaine Evans  
Mentor



William Scott  
Region VI Field  
Specialist

## Ask Fathers . . .



- If you had **one hour** of free time, how would you spend it?
- What **skills and knowledge** do you want to pass on to your child?
- How do you **communicate** to your child that you care about them or that you love them?
- How do you want to **participate** in your child's early education program? In your child's development?

## Learning Objectives

- Identify ways to make their program environment more welcoming to fathers, through the physical space and staff attitudes and behaviors.
- Apply relationship-based practices to support strong partnerships with fathers
- Learn strategies and exemplary practices from fatherhood champions in the community

## A Sensory Experience



## If I were a father walking into your program . . .

*Please use the chat box.*

- What would I see?
- What would I hear?
- How would I feel?
- What could you tell me about the value of engaging with my child?



## Why is it Important to Engage Fathers?

Engaged fathers prepare children

- For school: stronger cognitive and motor skills
- For peer interactions: social emotional benefits
- For addressing challenges: improved problem-solving skills



Children with engaged fathers enjoy elevated levels of physical and mental health; are more confident, curious, and empathetic; and show greater moral sensitivity and self-control.

(Cabrera, Shannon, & Tamis-LeMonda, 2007); (Dubowitz et al., 2001)

## Building Partnerships: Guide to Developing Relationships with Families



- <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/building-partnerships-developing-relationships-families.pdf>

## Strategies for Practice: Strengths-based Attitudes



- Fathers are the first and most important teachers of their children.
- Fathers are our partners with a critical role in their family's development.
- Fathers have expertise about their child and their family.
- Fathers' contributions are important and valuable.



## Strategies for Practice: Relationship-based Practices

- Observe and describe the child's behavior to open communication with the father
- Reflect on the father's perspective
- Support competence
- Focus on the father-child relationship
- Value a father's passion
- Reflect on your own perspective



## Reflect on Your Own Perspective



- With your supervisor
- During a reflective practice session
- With a mental health consultant

## Next Steps



## Survey and Certificates

- Give us your feedback, get a certificate!



## Head Start Father Engagement Birth to Five Programming Guide



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

## Father Engagement Series Upcoming Webinars

- May 25
  - Welcoming Fathers: Program Environment and Strong Family Partnerships
- **June 8**
  - **Leveraging Community Partnerships to Support Fathers' Well-being**
- June 22
  - Engaging Fathers in their Children's Learning and Development



## Let's Stay Connected

- Stay on until 4:15 pm EDT to continue chat discussions with the presenters
- Sign up for the [Fatherhood Connection Resource Flash](#) (quarterly newsletter)



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Parent, Family and Community Engagement

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