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## **Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare 2010-present**

### **Finding Your Way: Guides for Fathers in Child Protection Cases.**

American Humane.

2011

Studies have shown that increased father engagement in children's lives results in better outcomes for children and families. This series of short guides provide important tips for non-custodial fathers involved in child protection cases, focusing on issues such as the father's legal rights, child support and courtroom etiquette. They include information written specifically for fathers on how they can be active participants in their children's case and successfully navigate the protection system. (Author abstract)

<http://fatherhoodqic.org/>

### **Fathers' Involvement and Child Behavior Problems in Poor African American Single-Mother Families**

Choi, Jeong-Kyun. Jackson, Aurora P.

2011

*Children and Youth Services Review* 33 (5) p. 698-704

The present study examined the effects of nonresident fathers' involvement -- measured by the frequency of fathers' contact with their children and the quality of fathers' parenting -- on their children's behavior problems. Using data from a subsample of African American single and non-cohabiting mothers from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study, results indicate that more frequent contact between fathers and their child and fathers' more adequate parenting were associated indirectly with fewer child behavior problems transmitted through more adequate parenting by mothers. The quality of mothers' parenting was associated positively with the quality of the mother-father relationship and with both the quality and the frequency of the fathers' contacts with their child. Policy and practice implications are discussed. (Author abstract)

### **Fathers for Life: Strengthening Families and Fatherhood: Children of Fathers in the Criminal Justice System [Website].**

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Administration for Children & Families. Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center.

2011

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. (Author abstract)  
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/New%20Parental%20Involvement/Fatherhood/FathersLife.htm>

**The Dad Man [Website].**

Kelly, Joe.

2011

Fathers are a powerful, yet largely untapped resource in our society. On this site, you will learn how men can be better fathers, and how everyone can activate fathers to help enrich and strengthen our families, communities, organizations, workplaces, and schools. (Author abstract)

<http://thedadman.com/index.php>

**Working with Fathers: From Knowledge to Therapeutic Practice.**

*Basic Texts in Counselling and Psychotherapy.*

Walters, Jennifer.

2011

This book is designed to help practitioners keep fathers in mind in their therapeutic work and to raise and demonstrate a strong awareness of fathers and their importance in children's lives, whether negative or positive. An introduction explores the lack of research on fathers, theoretical models for work with fathers, the relationship between attachment theory and fathers, and the influence of dominant discourses and the impact on fathers. The rest of the book is divided into seven chapters which explore different aspects of fathers and fathering. It begins by examining demographic features of fathers, who they are, where they are, and how fathering as a concept has changed over the generations. Subsequent chapters look at men and parenting, men's mental health in relations to fathering, and the role of fathers. A chapter follows on the engagement of fathers in clinical work with families. Other chapters address recommended strategies for working with separated fathers, lone fathers, fathers in prison, domestic violence and fathers, working with fathers and men in groups, and cultural aspects of fathering. Chapters close with key practice points. Numerous references. (Author abstract modified)

**Linkages Between Children's Behavior and Nonresident Father Involvement: A Comparison of African American, Anglo, and Latino Families.**

Mullins, David F.

2011

*Journal of African American Studies*

15 (1) p. 1-21

This study examines the relationships between ethnicity-based variations in nonresident fathers' involvement and children's behavior. Using weighted least squares regression analysis,

this study investigates nonresident father involvement and children's behavior based on a nationally representative sample of children in the National Survey of America's Families. After controlling for family context variables, nonresident father involvement through increased frequency of visits was positively associated with better child behavior. The payment of formal or informal child support by nonresident fathers was also associated with better behavior. This study suggests that the impact of nonresident father involvement on child behavior varies among African American, Anglo, and Latino families. (Author abstract)

**Trauma-Informed Care for Children Exposed to Violence: Tips for Engaging Men and Fathers.**

*Trauma Informed Care Tip Sheets.*

Safe Start Center.

2011

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Dept. of Justice. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Designed for programs seeking to engage men and fathers, this brief explains the impact exposure to violence can cause on children and the harm that can result unless they receive support to help them cope and heal. The warning signs of exposure to violence are listed for children ages 5 and younger, children ages 6-12 years, and teenagers ages 13-18. The importance of fathers' engagement with their children to prevent and reduce the impact of exposure to violence is stressed, and the following recommendations are made for programs for engaging fathers: develop protocols to response effectively to men, fathers, and father figures; use self-generated cultural values to help men heal, learning parenting skills, and change their behaviors; use fatherhood to motivate men to expand their parenting skills; provide specialized, trauma-informed interventions to fathers; offer fathers who have completed batter intervention programs and renounced violence ongoing support and parenting skills; and establish meaningful relationships with community-based organizations to better serve fathers and their families. Information on mandated reporting requirements is also provided, as well as a list of additional resources.

<http://www.safestartcenter.org/pdf/Tip%20Sheet%20-%20For%20Fathers.pdf>

**Working with the African American Father: The Forgotten Parent (Version 1.0).**

Fitch, Deborah. King, Kahalifa.

California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC).

2011

[http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining\\_AfricanAmFathers.html](http://calswec.berkeley.edu/CalSWEC/OtherTraining_AfricanAmFathers.html)

**Fathers Engagement Project; Site Visit Report. Grantee: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services (Region IV); University of Washington School of Social Work; Divine Alternatives for Dads; and Catalyst for Kids.**

*Site Visit Report*



Children's Bureau. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau

The Fathers Engagement Project in King County, WA, is one of four projects funded in 2008 by the National Quality Improvement Center for Non-Residential Fathers and the Child Welfare System (QIC NRF). The State's Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is using the grant to locate and recruit nonresident fathers of children in the child welfare system for a peer support group and other services. The goal is to increase fathers' involvement with their children and the child welfare system.

Using the same core curriculum, which was funded by the QIC NRF, as other projects, the King County peer groups focus on topics such as how the child welfare system works, parenting education, accessing resources, and how the court system works. Within the peer group framework, the fathers learn to support each other as they navigate the child welfare system and reconnect with their children.

Keywords: Washington Child welfare agencies Nonresident Fathers

#### **Involving Dads in Family Group Decision-Making.**

*Spotlight on Father Engagement*

2010

*Children's Bureau Express* 11 (5)

<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=117&ionid=2&articleid=2899>

#### **Change Initiative Exemplar Resources Summary: Father Engagement in Child Welfare.**

National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

2010

[http://www.ncwwi.org/docs/Father\\_Engagement\\_in\\_Child\\_Welfare\\_Summary\\_Information.pdf](http://www.ncwwi.org/docs/Father_Engagement_in_Child_Welfare_Summary_Information.pdf)

#### **The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.**

*Spotlight on Father Engagement*

Turner, Randell.

2010

*Children's Bureau Express* 11 (5)

<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=117&ionid=2&articleid=2902>

#### **Bridging the Child Welfare System and Father-Focused Services.**

*Spotlight on Father Engagement*

2010

*Children's Bureau Express* 11 (5)

<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=117&ionid=2&articleid=2904>

**Responsible Fatherhood State Profile: South Carolina.**

[Download Document](#)

*NRFC State Profiles*

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.  
2010

This fact sheet presents South Carolina's programs and strategies to promote parenting and responsible fatherhood. The profile also includes the state's strategies to promote healthy marriage, strategies to enhance fathers' economic stability, services and programs related to incarceration and reentry, and a list of resources.

**Responsible Fatherhood State Profile: South Dakota.**

[Download Document](#)

*NRFC State Profiles*

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.  
2010

This fact sheet presents South Dakota's programs and strategies to promote parenting and responsible fatherhood. The profile also includes the state's strategies to promote healthy marriage, strategies to enhance fathers' economic stability, services and programs related to incarceration and reentry, and a list of resources.

**Responsible Fatherhood State Profile: Tennessee.**

[Download Document](#)

*NRFC State Profiles*

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.  
2010

This fact sheet presents Tennessee's programs and strategies to promote parenting and responsible fatherhood. The profile also includes the state's strategies to promote healthy marriage, strategies to enhance fathers' economic stability, services and programs related to incarceration and reentry, and a list of resources.

**Responsible Fatherhood State Profile: Texas.**

[Download Document](#)

*NRFC State Profiles*

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.  
2010

This fact sheet presents Texas' programs and strategies to promote parenting and responsible



fatherhood. The profile also includes the state's strategies to promote healthy marriage, strategies to enhance fathers' economic stability, services and programs related to incarceration and reentry, and a list of resources.

Other NRFC State Profiles are available at <http://www.fatherhood.gov/about-us/nrfc-resources/nrfc-state-profiles>

### **Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage: What's the Connection?**

*Tips for Practitioners*

Noll, Leif. Harrison, Courtney. Patterson, Patrick. Derrington, Rachel.

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.

2010

Marriage and relationship education (MRE) and responsible fatherhood (RF) programs share the goal of improving the lives of children by strengthening the interpersonal skills of their parents. The origins of these program areas are distinct: MRE began primarily as a way to prepare couples for marriage whereas RF was originally designed to prepare unmarried fathers to reconnect with their children and families. However, a common purpose has emerged between the two fields. According to the U.S. Census, more than 2.5 million children are raised in families without their biological father. This statistic confirms the need for fatherhood-specific and relationship education programs. Such programs help families communicate effectively and understand the importance of father involvement and healthy co-parental relationships, regardless of relationship status. Responsible fatherhood and MRE programs both address the diverse needs of fathers and their families in effort to improve child well-being. Recent research indicates that these programs, when working collaboratively, can have a positive impact on fathers, children, and their families. This Tip Sheet highlights the commonalities and strengths of each program area and suggests strategies for practitioners interested in bridging the two fields.

(Author abstract)

<http://healthymarriageinfo.org/docs/responsibleFatherhood.pdf>

### **Summary of State Statutes on Non-Resident Father Notification, Identification and Engagement in Child Welfare.**

National Conference of State Legislatures.

2010

A non-resident (or non-custodial) father is a parent who does not live in the same household as his child; he may be divorced or separated or may have never married the child's mother, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, Promoting Responsible Fatherhood . While state efforts in the location, identification, and engagement of non-residential fathers in child welfare programs differ, many states are looking at the requirement of locating non-resident fathers in a set timeframe and defining "due diligence" efforts. While many states may have legislation in place around the notification, identification, and engagement to mothers, fathers, or parents in child welfare, this summary of legislation is tailored to these efforts in child welfare to non-resident (non-custodial) fathers, unknown fathers, or absent parents. Due to

different terminology used in various states or jurisdictions, it is possible that some relevant provisions are not included. Approximately twenty-one states have enacted legislation around the notification, identification, and engagement of non-resident fathers in child welfare. This includes four states that allow or require that notification to parents regarding a child welfare proceeding be issued by publication and three states that determine a time frame for when parents or other adults shall be identified and notified of a child proceeding. Summaries of related state legislation are detailed in this document. (Author abstract)

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=18934>

**Engaging Nonresident Fathers in Child Welfare Cases: A Guide for Court Appointed Special Advocates.**

Kendall, Jessica R. Pilnik, Lisa. Chiamulera, Claire S.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System.

American Humane. ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

Intended for court appointed special advocate volunteers and guardians ad litem, this guide offers practice tips for identifying and engaging fathers in cases involving child clients. It begins by describing the benefits of father involvement, including improving children's quality of life and providing children with adult connections. Barriers to father engagement are identified and a framework for involving fathers in children's lives is offered. Strategies discussed include: help to identify and locate the father, encourage the agency to find missing parents, assess whether the father could be a placement or other resource for the child, consider paternal relatives, talk to the child about his or her father and maternal and paternal relatives, recognize that fathers learn and seek help differently than mothers, try to engage incarcerated fathers, understand how substance abuse affects fathering, and advocate for including the father and paternal relatives in case planning and family group decision-making conferences. Additional information is provided on dimensions of effective fathering, the legal rights of fathers in child welfare cases, the most frequently requested services from fathers, and the different learning styles of men. A services checklist for fathers is included. 22 references.

[http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/casa\\_brief.pdf](http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/casa_brief.pdf)

**Engaging Noncustodial Fathers in Child Welfare Cases: A Guide for Children's Attorneys and Lawyer Guardians ad Litem.**

Pilnik, Lisa. Kendall, Jessica R. Chiamulera, Claire S.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System.

American Humane. ABA Center on Children and the Law.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

As a children's attorney or lawyer guardian ad litem (GAL), your advocacy should include efforts to engage fathers in child welfare cases. Many of your child clients' biological fathers may

not live with them when CPS becomes involved with the family. Or, the father may not be accused of abuse or neglect when CPS intervenes. This guide offers practice tips to identify and engage these fathers in your child clients' cases. Some of this material may also be useful when working with noncustodial mothers or custodial fathers. The information and tips will help you make informed recommendations about children's best interests, and promote father engagement that supports those interests. (Author abstract)

[http://www.fatherhoodqc.org/children\\_atty\\_gal\\_brief\\_final.pdf](http://www.fatherhoodqc.org/children_atty_gal_brief_final.pdf)

**The Importance of Expanding Home Visitation Services to Include Strengthening Family Relationships for the Benefit of Children.**

Sar, Bibhuti K. Antle, Becky F. Bledsoe, Linda K. Barbee, Anita P. Van Zyl, Michiel A.  
2010

*Children and Youth Services Review*

32 (2) p. 198-205

Although home visiting programs effectively address risks of maltreatment related to the mother and infant through providing services such as medical care, education/vocational support, and training on positive infant parenting practices, little programmatic attention has been paid to couple relationships, father involvement, and parenting interactions in the context of new parenthood. These relationships within the family system, if not nurtured, can heighten the risks for maltreatment. Therefore, the research on the impact of these relationships for children's wellbeing are reviewed, examples of evidence-based programs to strengthen these relationships are provided, and changes to existing home visiting policies and programs to include strengthening family relationships for the benefit of children are recommended. (Author abstract)

**Exploring the Bias against Fathers in the Child Welfare System (including, Identifying and Overcoming Barriers Men Face When Working with Child Welfare and Tips on How to Engage Fathers in Child Welfare Work).**

Northern California Training Academy.

2010

*Reaching Out*

This issue of Reaching Out is devoted to looking at the subject of Fatherhood and Child Welfare. Along with several articles that spotlight current research and statistics, a number of articles give concrete tips to dads, administrators and social workers. (Author abstract)

[http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/news/pdf/reaching\\_out\\_wint\\_10.pdf](http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/news/pdf/reaching_out_wint_10.pdf)

**Father Involvement: Meeting CFSR Standards.**

National Family Preservation Network.

2010

The benefits of father involvement in the lives of children have been well-established. However, child welfare agencies continue to struggle with implementing father involvement policies and



practice. All states are required to participate in the federal Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) that measure outcomes in child welfare agencies. While there is no specific measure for father involvement, there are four relevant proxies under a Child Well-Being Outcome. The National Family Preservation Network has developed this guide to assist child welfare agencies improve their practice and outcomes on father involvement. (Author abstract)

[http://nfpn.org/images/stories/files/cfsr\\_father\\_involvement.pdf](http://nfpn.org/images/stories/files/cfsr_father_involvement.pdf)

### **Engaging Fathers in Child and Family Services.**

*CAFCA Practice Sheet*

Tehan, Bridget. McDonald, Myfanwy.

Australian Institute of Family Studies. Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia (CAFCA).

2010

This Practice Sheet summarises and builds upon the findings from the Engaging Fathers study (Berlyn, Wise, & Soriano, 2008). It provides ideas for practitioners and policy-makers about how to increase engagement of fathers in child and family services and programs. (Author abstract)

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/cafca/pubs/sheets/ps/ps2.pdf>

### **Including Fathers in Clinical Interventions for Children and Adolescents (chapter in *The Role of the Father in Child Development*, 5th Edition).**

Phares, Vicky. Rojas, Ariz. Thurston, Idia B. Hankinson, Jessica C.

2010

This chapter reviews the connections between fathers' and children's psychopathology, provides an overview of fathers' involvement in mental health treatment, explores barriers that keep many fathers from becoming involved in mental health treatment, and examines factors that predict fathers' involvement in treatment. Suggestions are made for increasing fathers' involvement in clinical interventions. Numerous references.

### **A Win-Win Partnership: MRE and Child Support Enforcement.**

*Tips for Practitioners*

Welch, Dan. Derrington, Rachel. Clune, Michelle.

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center.

2010

Improving child outcomes is common ground between Child Support Enforcement (CSE) and Marriage and Relationship Education (MRE) programs. Parents who maintain a healthy relationship with one another, even if they are not romantically involved, are typically better able to co-parent. In fact, a strained relationship between co-parents is the primary reason why many parents fail to pay child support. Relationship education services can be an excellent intervention for families who are struggling with co-parenting and child support payments. This Tip Sheet provides ideas to help MRE practitioners create and sustain partnerships with CSE. (Author abstract)

<http://www.healthy marriageinfo.org/docs/MREChildSupportEnforcement.pdf>

**Policies That Strengthen Fatherhood and Family Relationships: What Do We Know and What Do We Need to Know?**

Knox, Virginia. Cowan, Philip A. Cowan, Carolyn Pape. Bildner, Elana.  
2010

As described in earlier articles, children whose parents have higher income and education levels are more likely to grow up in stable two-parent households than their economically disadvantaged counterparts. These widening gaps in fathers' involvement in parenting and in the quality and stability of parents' relationships may reinforce disparities in outcomes for the next generation. This paper reviews evidence about the effectiveness of two strategies to strengthen fathers' involvement and family relationships-- fatherhood programs aimed at disadvantaged noncustodial fathers and relationship skills programs for parents who are together. Fatherhood programs have shown some efficacy at increasing child support payments, while relationship skills approaches have shown benefits for the couples' relationship quality, coparenting skills, fathers' engagement in parenting, and children's well-being. The research evidence suggests that parents' relationship with each other should be a fundamental consideration in future programs aimed at increasing low-income fathers' involvement with their children. (Author abstract)

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/556/full.pdf>

**Viewing Low-Income Fathers' Ties to Families through a Cultural Lens: Insights for Research and Policy.**

Waller, Maureen R.  
Cornell University  
2010

*The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*  
629 (1) p. 102-124

Policy makers have become increasingly interested in addressing the cultural dimensions of child support, "responsible fatherhood," and marriage in poor communities. However, policy studies have primarily focused on identifying economic determinants of these issues, with a substantial amount of variation in their statistical models left unexplained. This article draws on in-depth interviews the author conducted with disadvantaged mothers and fathers to illustrate how a systematic investigation into the meaning of low-income men's ties to families may fill in or provide alternative explanations for some important questions related to paternal involvement. In particular, it suggests that analyzing fathers' relationships through a cultural lens may not only reveal new information about the meaning of their emotional involvement, informal support, care of children, and conflicts with mothers which future policy studies should consider but may also inform policy initiatives by reducing the risk that they will be misdirected or have unintended consequences for poor families. (Author abstract)

### **Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Father Involvement and Child Gender.**

[Download Document](#)

*NRFC Spotlights*

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2010

This factsheet explores the relationship between father involvement and child gender. It reviews findings from research studies that indicate the gender of a child has important implications for father involvement, both the quantity and type of father involvement vary by gender, and this involvement may affect sons and daughters differently. Studies suggest that father-son relationships are stronger and involve more closeness than do father-daughter relationships; fathers differentiate between male and female children more so than mothers; fathers are more likely than are mothers to encourage sex-typed behaviors and traditional gender roles in children; fathers are gentler with girls and firmer, harsher, stricter, and more directive with boys; fathers tend to view infant boys as being stronger and hardier than infant girls, whom they view as being smaller, quieter, weaker, less coordinated, more beautiful, and more delicate; and that fathers may play a stronger role in sons' development than in daughters. Data is shared from Child Trends analyses of data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study - Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) 9-month, 24-month, and 48-month surveys on child gender and father involvement in early childhood, and differences in father involvement by poverty status and education level. 10 figures, 11 tables, and 64 references.

### **Aggravation and Stress in Parenting: Associations with Coparenting and Father Engagement Among Resident Fathers.**

Bronte-Tinkew, Jacinta. Horowitz, Allison. Carrano, Jennifer.

2010

*Journal of Family Issues*

31 (4) p. 525-555

This study uses a sample of 2,139 resident biological fathers from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing surveys (baseline and 12-month follow-up), to examine whether paternal aggravation and stress in parenting is associated with father engagement and coparenting and whether this association differs by father's socioeconomic status. Results of Ordinary Least Squares regression models indicate that paternal aggravation and stress in parenting is significantly associated with lower levels of father engagement and with less supportive coparenting relationships (controlling for mothers' aggravation and stress in parenting). Findings also indicate a more negative association between paternal aggravation/stress in parenting and father engagement and coparenting for fathers with household incomes below the poverty threshold. Findings suggest that policies aimed at decreasing parenting stress may be especially beneficial to fathers living in poor families. (Author abstract)

### **Three States Build Father Engagement.**

*Spotlight on the CFSRs: What Are We Learning From Round Two?*

United States. Children's Bureau.  
2010

*Children's Bureau Express* 11 (7) 2 html pages

This brief describes efforts in Kansas, Texas, and Kentucky to implement innovative practices to engage fathers and paternal relatives in the lives of children involved with the child welfare system. Kansas has changed the word "parent" to the phrase "mother and father" throughout the Children and Family Services policy manual, provides training on father engagement, strengthened requirements for contacting relatives of children entering foster care, and sponsors an annual Fatherhood Summit. Texas has created the State-level position of Fatherhood Program Specialist to spearhead a commitment to involve fathers in their children's lives, revised policies to ensure that fathers are included, provides training on father engagement and family finding, uses Family Group Decision Making to include fathers and paternal relatives in case planning, and collaborates with fatherhood groups around the State. Finally, Kentucky has updated written policies to include father-specific languages, developed tools caseworkers can use to help them locate fathers and paternal relatives, provides training about father involvement and family engagement, and conducts meetings with judges and court personnel to discuss paternity establishment and parent engagement.

<http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=119&ionid=2&articleid=2956>

**Bringing Back the Dads: A Model Program Curriculum for Non-Resident Father Engagement.**  
[Download Document](#)

Morley, Lauren. Wilmot, Leslie. Berdie, Jane. Bruce, Lara. Frankel, Paul.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System.  
2010

This curriculum is designed to be used to encourage the engagement of nonresident fathers in the lives of their children. Materials and resources are provided for conducting group sessions with fathers that address the following topics: the functions of the child welfare system; service planning in the child welfare system; ensuring children have a healthy father that makes good life choices; identifying and accessing resources that are available for families; the role of culture in parenting; child development and meeting the needs of children; the child welfare visitation process and techniques for having successful visits; the processes of the juvenile court system, legal advocacy, and court etiquette; child support and what is expected of a nonresidential father; shared parenting and recommendations for working with the child's mother, extended families, and foster parents; and workforce readiness and the importance of gaining employment. Materials for each session include information on the purpose of the session, facilitator preparation, facilitator resources, a list of materials needed for conducting the group session, group activities, and relevant handouts. The curriculum closes with a dictionary of key terms.

**Fathers Involvement and Public Policies (chapter in *The Role of the Father in Child*)**

**Development. 5th Edition).**

Cabrera, Natasha J.

2010

This chapter reviews the current policy and social context of fathers in the United States, the changing role of fathers and policies to support their involvement in Canada, effects of public policies on father involvement, and programs and new initiatives on father involvement. The Building Strong Families program and fatherhood initiatives in the Head Start and Early Head Start programs are highlighted. Numerous references.

**Tarrant County (TX) Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System (QIC NRF) Subgrant; Site Visit Report, Grantee: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, NewDay Services for Children and Families (on behalf of the Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County), and Child Trends.**

[Download Document](#)

*Site Visit Report*

Children's Bureau. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau

Project staff felt that the project made its biggest impact on the understanding and practice of CPS staff regarding engaging fathers. The subgrant conducted several trainings on this topic, including one for 350 workers from 19 counties. The majority of workers surveyed after the training indicated that they had increased their knowledge about the importance of father involvement and the barriers fathers face with the child welfare system. Other trainings focused on topics such as pulling historical paternal information from case files and locating fathers.

**Marriage and Fatherhood Programs.**

Cowan, Phillip A. Cowan, Carolyn Pape. Knox, Virginia.

2010

*Future of Children*

20 (2) p. 205-230

The authors present a conceptual model to explain why couple-relationship and father-involvement interventions developed for middle- and low-income married couples might be expected to provide benefits for children of unmarried parents. Then they summarize the extensive research on existing couple-relationship and father-involvement interventions, noting that only a few of the programs for couples and a handful of fatherhood programs have been systematically evaluated. Of those that have been evaluated, few have included unmarried couples as participants, and none has investigated whether interventions may have different effects when unmarried fathers live with or apart from the child. Next, the authors consider whether interventions for working-class or middle-class fathers or couples that have shown benefits for family members and their relationships might be helpful to fragile families, in which the parents are not married at the time of their child's birth. The authors emphasize the need for

more research on program development to understand the most effective ways to strengthen co-parenting by couples who are the biological parents of a child but who have relatively tenuous, or already dissolved, relationships with one another. In closing, the authors summarize how far the family-strengthening field has come and offer suggestions for where it might go from here to be helpful to fragile families. (Author abstract)

<http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/journals/article/index.xml?journalid=73&articleid=537>

[http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/20\\_02\\_10.pdf](http://www.futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/20_02_10.pdf)

**Responsible Fatherhood Spotlight: Father Involvement and Social Support.**

[Download Document](#)

*NRFC Spotlights*

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse.

2010

This factsheet explores the relationship between social support and father involvement. It reviews findings from research studies that indicate fathers who report having high levels of social support experience better psychological well-being and demonstrate more positive patterns of father involvement and coparenting. Studies suggest spousal/partner support is positively associated with fathers' well-being; high levels of program support are associated with higher reports of fathers' parenting skills; fathers who report high levels of tangible or instrumental support report better well-being; availability and influence of social support have been found to vary according to a number of characteristics; levels of social support have been found to have both direct and indirect links to parenting and father involvement; fathers who report receiving spousal/partner support are more likely to consider their role as fathers a high priority; program support is positively related to father involvement and may have a positive association with coparenting; fathers' levels of instrumental support have been associated with their coparenting abilities; and children may benefit indirectly when their parents receive high levels of social support. Data is shared on fathers' social support and father involvement among resident fathers from Child Trends' analyses of data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study baseline and 12-month surveys. The study included 3,712 unmarried couples and 1,186 married couples who were interviewed at the birth of their child. 6 figures, 6 tables, and 60 references.

**The Engagement of Fathers and Relatives Through the Fostering Connections to Success Act.**

Crane, Kelly.

National Conference of State Legislatures.

2010

QIC News p. 4-5

This fact sheet reviews provisions in the Fostering Connections to Success Act and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 that promote the engagement of fathers and paternal relatives in the lives of children in out-of-home placement. It explains that the Act requires States to exercise due



diligence to identify and notify adult relatives of a child if he or she is placed in foster care. The enactment of legislation to comply with the Act in different States is reviewed, as well as challenges States face in promoting the engagement of fathers and paternal relatives, and in determining the definition of "relative." 2 references.

[http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/engagement\\_of\\_fathersandrelatives\\_qicwint10.pdf](http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/engagement_of_fathersandrelatives_qicwint10.pdf)

**Fostering Connections: New Notification Requirements May Help Fathers and Paternal Relatives Become Involved With Their Children.**

Jordan, Elizabeth.

National Quality Improvement Center on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System. 2010

*QIC News* p. 1-3

Sponsoring Organization: United States. Children's Bureau.

This newsletter highlights key provisions of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Public Law 110-351) that was signed into law on Oct. 7, 2008, to help children in foster care across the country maintain family connections and achieve permanency. The Act promotes permanent families with relatives of children in care by: providing notice to relatives when children first enter care; providing federal funding to States that opt to create permanent guardianship programs for relatives; allowing waivers for non-safety-related foster home licensing standards for relatives; and providing funds for other family-focused programs to connect children to relatives and relatives to services through discretionary grants. Ways in which the Act will help preserve familial relationships, especially those involving non-resident fathers and paternal kin are discussed. A commentary summarizes following articles that explore the impact of the Act on identifying, locating, and meaningfully engage non-resident fathers.

[http://fatherhoodqic.org/fostering\\_connections\\_qicwint10.pdf](http://fatherhoodqic.org/fostering_connections_qicwint10.pdf)

**Fathers Engagement Project; Site Visit Report. Grantee: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services (Region IV); University of Washington School of Social Work; Divine Alternatives for Dads; and Catalyst for Kids.**

*Site Visit Report*

Children's Bureau. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Division of Children and Family Services.

2010

Sponsoring Organization: Children's Bureau

The Fathers Engagement Project in King County, WA, is one of four projects funded in 2008 by the National Quality Improvement Center for Non-Residential Fathers and the Child Welfare System (QIC NRF). The State's Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is using the grant



to locate and recruit nonresident fathers of children in the child welfare system for a peer support group and other services. The goal is to increase fathers' involvement with their children and the child welfare system. Using the same core curriculum, which was funded by the QIC NRF, as other projects, the King County peer groups focus on topics such as how the child welfare system works, parenting education, accessing resources, and how the court system works. Within the peer group framework, the fathers learn to support each other as they navigate the child welfare system and reconnect with their children.

