

# Child Aware Approaches Conference

Valuing Fathers For Advancing  
Children's Development  
From Conception

---

## Valuing Fathers For Advancing Children's Development From Conception



DAD

MOM

### AT THE GROCERY STORE

Oh look at what a good dad you are!

Well, you've got your hands full!

encircle

ABOUT  
Home & Values

SERVICES  
Helping the Community

COMMUNITY  
Programs & Organizations

COURSES & GROUPS  
Helping others

NEW

Home | Courses & Groups | For Men

For Men

Nothing Found!

It seems we can't find what you're looking for. Maybe searching can help a bit.

Donate

Courses & G

- COMMUNITY G
- ABOUT COMM
- FOR CHILDREN
- FOR DADS AND
- FOR GENERAL
- FOR MEN
- FOR WOMEN
- OTHER GROUPS

DAD

MOM

### GETTING YOUR HAIR CUT

So just a trim?

So who's watching the kids?



# Behaviour



# Behaviour

Positive father involvement =

- decreased boys' problem behaviours (especially boys with more challenging temperaments)
  - better mental health for girls
  - Decreased hyperactivity
  - reduced teen violence & delinquency and other problems with the law (Fogarty & Evans, 2009).
  - less likely to be sexually involved at an early age,
  - less likely to have babies out of wedlock,
  - less likely to be involved in criminal or violent behaviour.
  - more patient, curious, and confident.
  - More self discipline, self control and longer attention span (Billler, 1993)
  - improved general life skills
- 
- Children in neighbourhoods with a high concentration of fatherless families are 3 x more likely to be incarcerated

Billler, H.B. & Solomon, R.S., *Child Maltreatment and Paternal Deprivation: A Manifesto for Research, Prevention, and Treatment*, Lexington, MA: Lexington, 1986.

Radin, 'Primary caregiving and rolesharing fathers of preschoolers', in Lamb (ed.), *Nontraditional Families*, 1982, pp. 173-208; Sagi, A., 'Antecedents and consequences of various degrees of paternal involvement in childrearing: The Israeli Project', in Lamb (ed.), *Nontraditional Families*, 1982.

Fogarty, K. & Evans, G. (2009). The Hidden Benefits of Being an Involved Father. Retrieved from <http://edis.ifos.ufl.edu/he137>

Henry B. Billler, *Father and Families: Paternal Factors in Child Development* (Westport, CT: Auburn House, 1993).

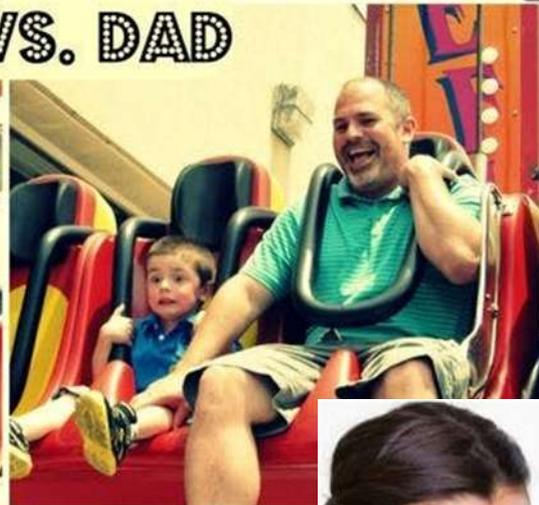
Paul R. Amato, *Children in Australian Families: The Growth of Competence* (New York: Prentice Hall, 1987).

Anne Hill and June O'Neil, *Underclass Behaviors in the United States: Measurements and Analysis or Determinants* (New York: City University of New York, 1993).

# Coordination and Movement



# MOM VS. DAD



DivineSecretsofaDomesticDiva.com

## Coordination and Movement



**MOM**



**DAD**



**AS THE FATHER  
SEES**



**AS THE CHILD  
SEES**



**AS THE MOTHER  
SEES**



# Social & Emotional Development



# Social & Emotional Development

- Father involvement is associated with:
  - Increased: empathy
  - Self-esteem
  - Self-control
  - Feelings of ability to achieve
  - Psychological well-being
  - Social competence
  - Life skills
  - Fewer sex-stereotyped beliefs
- In a 26-year-long study found NUMBER 1 factor in developing empathy in children was father involvement. Fathers spending regular time alone with their children translated into children who became compassionate adults.(Koestner et al. 1990)

# Language



# Language

- fathers language input makes a significant and unique contribution to their children's later expressive language development. Specifically, fathers who used more different words in their interactions with their children at 24 months had children with better expressive language skills at 36 months of age. Father contributions to children's language development held even after controlling for parental level of education, quality of childcare, and the same aspects of maternal language input to these young children (Pancsofar & Vernon-Feagans 2006)
- Fathers and Mothers speak to children differently.
- Mothers:
  - simplify their words, speak on the child's level, more descriptive, personal, and verbally encouraging (good for immediate communication)
- Fathers:
  - Don't modify their language as much, tends to be more brief, directive, and to the point, makes more use of facial expressions and body language (challenges the child to expand his or her vocabulary and linguistic skills)
- Children who do not learn how to understand and use both styles of conversation will be at a disadvantage, because they will experience both of these styles as they enter the adult world.

Eleanor E. Maccoby, *The Two Sexes: Growing Up Apart; Coming Together* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999),

# Learning & Attention



# Learning & Attention

- Fathers' interaction with babies (engaging in cognitively stimulating activities, emotional warmth, physical care) reduced their infants' chances of experiencing cognitive delay (Bronte-Tinkew, Carrano, Horowitz & Kinukawa, 2008)
- In fact, when fathers are good at playing with their young children, these children score higher on tests of thinking and problem-solving skills. (Radin, 1986)
- Because fathers encouraged their children's responsibility (eg. carrying scissors, crossing the street, or taking a bath alone) their children scored higher in tests of thinking skills (Clarke-Stewart, 1980). Accomplishing tasks at this age is so important, and fathers' involvement is so crucial, that fathers have a larger influence on their children's self-esteem at this age than do mothers. (Amato, 1986)

Clarke-Stewart, 'And Daddy makes three', *Child Development*, 1978; Clarke-Stewart, 'The Father's contribution', in Pedersen (ed.), *The Father-Infant Relationship*, 1980.

Amato, P.R., 'Marital conflict, the parent-child relationship, and child self-esteem', *Family Relations*, 35, 1986, pp. 403-410.

Radin, 'Primary caregiving fathers in intact families', 1994; Radin, 'The influence of fathers', *Social Work in Education*, 1986; Nugent, 'Cultural and psychological influences', *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 1991.

Bronte-Tinkew, J., Carrano, J., Horowitz, A., & Kinukawa, A. (2008). Involvement among resident fathers and links to infant cognitive outcomes. *Journal of Family Issues*, 29, 1211-1244.

# Working With Dads

- Relationships first
  - ~~Opposition~~ Opportunity
- Unconditional Regard
  - They're experts for their family
- Choice
  - How can they join in