

The Dad Effect: Engaging Fathers in Their Children's Lives and in Home Visiting **RESOURCE Guide**

Father-Friendliness

- Reflect on your attitudes and beliefs about fathers to identify biases that could affect your ability to engage fathers in their children's lives and in home visiting.
- Assess your "father-friendliness" and set goals for positive changes.
- Invite and welcome dad into your home visits.
- Get direct contact information for dad and avoid using mom as a go-between.
- Learn to know dad as an individual, with an attitude of cultural humility.
- Be flexible with appointment times and locations of home visits.

Engaging Dad in His Children's Lives

- Provide dad with father-friendly resources and activities.
- Teach dad about his importance to his family and to his child's development.
- Help dad identify ways he is already a good dad.
- Focus on skill development to support his child's school readiness.
- Ask dad how he would like to be involved/engaged with his child.
- Help dad overcome barriers to involvement/engagement with his child.
- Support dad in strengthening protective factors.



The Dad Effect: Understanding Dad's Role RESOURCE Guide

Resources for Dads

- National Responsible Father Clearinghouse, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance
 - Tip Card for Expectant Dads - [English](#)
 - Tip Card for New Dads - [English](#)
 - Tip Card for Dads of Toddlers - [English](#)
 - Tips for Dads: Reading to Your Child - [English](#)
- National Child Abuse Prevention Resource Guide 2019 – [Tip Sheets](#) in English and Spanish
 - Ten Ways to Be a Better Dad – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Bonding With Your Baby – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Keeping Your Family Strong – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Managing Your Finances – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Teen Parents...You're Not Alone! – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Great Books for Dads & Kids, J. Michael Hall, Strong Fathers- Strong Families - [English](#)
- A Driver's Manual for New Dads, New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, 2016 - [English](#)
- All Pro Dad, Guidance and Practical Tips for Dads - [English](#)

Resources for Professionals

- Healthy Children, American Academy of Pediatrics
 - Dads Can Get Depression During and After Pregnancy, Too, 2018 – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Facts for Fathers About Breastfeeding, 2012 – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - Dad's Role in Breastfeeding, 2012 – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- National Fatherhood Initiative, Free Resources for Dads and Organizations - [English](#)
- Dads Rock, CANTASD, A Service of the Children's Bureau
 - Video - [English](#)
 - Engagement Toolkit - [English](#)
- National Child Abuse Prevention Resource Guide 2019
 - Chapter 2, pages 12 -26, Working With Families Using the Protective Factors - [English](#)
 - Military Families – [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Father-Friendly Assessments
 - The Father Friendly Check-Up, National Fatherhood Initiative - [English](#)
 - Being Father Friendly, Simcoe County Fathering Involvement Group, Ontario – English
 - Program and Individual Self-Assessment for Father Friendliness, Health Education Design Group, James Madison University, Virginia - English