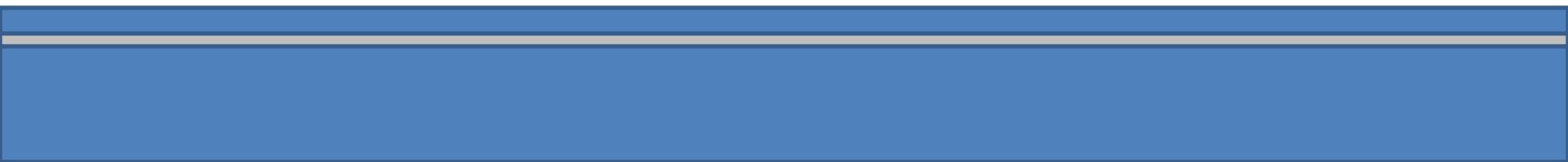


Centerstone is committed to developing a multi-layered, cross cultural, community outreach to **help** fathers understand the vital role they have in their child's development and to give them the skills they need to build **stronger** connections with their families, children and community.





THE FATHER ABSENCE CRISIS IN AMERICA



There is a crisis in America.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau,
24 million children in America

– **one out of three** –

live without their biological father in the home.

Consequently, there is a “**father factor**” in nearly all of the social ills facing America today.

Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...



TEEN PREGNANCY



**7X MORE LIKELY
TO BECOME
PREGNANT
AS TEEN**

MOM-CHILD HEALTH



**2X GREATER
RISK OF
INFANT
MORTALITY**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE



**MORE LIKELY
TO ABUSE
DRUGS
AND ALCOHOL**

POVERTY



**4X GREATER
RISK OF
POVERTY**

CHILD ABUSE

**MORE
LIKELY
TO FACE
ABUSE AND NEGLECT**



INCARCERATION

**MORE LIKELY
TO GO
TO PRISON**



CHILD OBESITY

**2X MORE LIKELY
TO SUFFER
OBESITY**



BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

**MORE LIKELY
To Have
BEHAVIORAL
PROBLEMS**



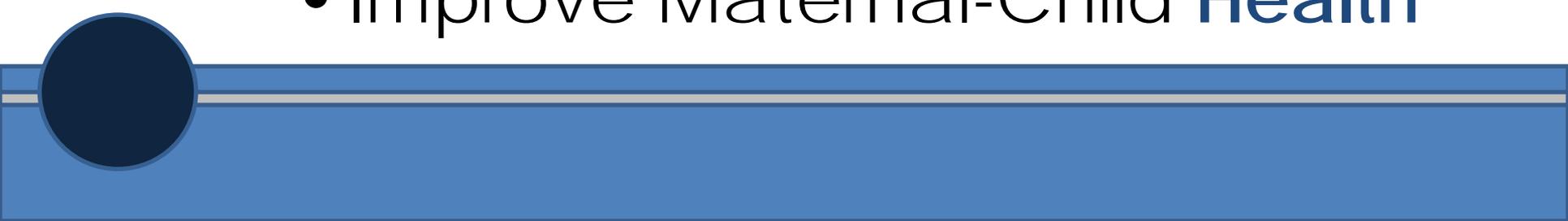
EDUCATION



**2X MORE LIKELY
TO DROP OUT OF
HIGH SCHOOL**

**24 million children are
without their father at home**

To address this crisis, we need a
Community-Based
Fatherhood Initiative to:

- Improve Child **Well-Being**
 - Increase **Father** Involvement
 - Improve Child **Welfare**
 - Improve Maternal-Child **Health**
- 

Improve Child Well-Being

24 million children in America, that's one in three, live apart from their biological fathers.

In urban communities, the father absence rates are closer to **80 percent**.

Sadly, **18+ million** of these children have limited contact with their non-resident dads.



Improve Child Well-Being

This leads to a number of **risks** to a child's health and well-being.

There is a **direct correlation** between child well-being and improving the skills of fathers and helping them understand the **importance** of their role in their child(rens) lives.



Improve Child Well-Being

- Children from father-absent homes are **two times** more likely to be obese.
- The poverty rate among children in father-absent homes is **four times higher** than among children in two-parent homes.



Increase Father Involvement

24 million children in the United States live **without** their biological father at home.

However, most social service programs focus mainly (or solely) on resources for mothers and children.

*What about skill-building for **fathers**?*

*How are they being **served**?*

Why Fathers are Important

With 24 million children going through their day without the love and support of their father, we are facing a crisis in child well-being that affects **all** aspects of child welfare.



Improve Child Welfare

- Children from father-absent homes are more likely to be **abused**.
- A study of 3,400 middle school-aged children indicates that not living with both biological parents **quadruples** the risk of having an affective disorder.



Improve Maternal-Child Health

A child's health is **directly** tied to his/her father's presence.

From emotional and behavioral issues, to sexual activity, abuse and neglect, father absence affects **many** issues related to child health.



Improve Maternal-Child Health

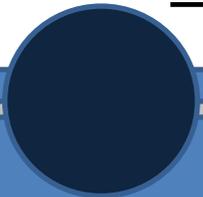
- Children from father-absent homes are at a **two times** greater risk of **infant mortality**.
- Children from father-absent homes are **two times** more likely to be **obese**.



Improve Maternal-Child Health

However, when **dads** are involved:

- Babies are **healthier** and have **fewer** complications at birth.
- They are **four times** more likely to **celebrate** their first birthday.
- Babies are **less likely** to experience Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).



Improve Maternal-Child Health

- Children have **improved** learning and emotional development.
- Children are more likely to go to well-baby visits.
- Children have **higher** developmental scores and **fewer** behavior problems later in life.



Substance Abuse & Mental Health

Children are **more likely** to use and abuse drugs when they grow up without an **involved, responsible** and **committed** father.

Drugs and alcohol often serve as **surrogates** for children who experience lack of **love** and **emotional connection** from their fathers.



Address Poverty and Crime

There is a **father factor** in poverty and crime.

- Children from father-absent homes are **four times more likely** to be **poor**.
- A child with an **incarcerated** father is significantly **more likely** to become incarcerated themselves.



Address Poverty and Crime

- Engaged fathers serve as **regulators** of aggressive behavior, which can lead to criminal activity, particularly for young boys.

But it's not just boys: the **fastest** growing prison population is **young girls** and **women**, many of whom have grown up in father-absent homes.



Fathers Matter



Fathers and mothers need to know the **important** role dads play in their children's mental, emotional and physical health.



Fathers Matter!

A U.S. Department of Education study found:

*“When fathers are **involved** in their child's education, that child is more likely to **receive A's**, that child is more likely to **enjoy** school, that child is more likely to **participate** in extracurricular activities and is less likely to **repeat** a grade.”*



Positive Influences Fathers Can Have

- When fathers rough-house with their children, it **promotes** play and physical fitness, where such activities with babies help them **develop** gross & fine motor skills.
- Dads often use different words and sentence structures than moms, which **teaches** children new **verbal skills** and increases their **vocabulary**.



When dad's influence is negative:



Depending on the **role** the fathers take, their influence on their children can be more **harmful** than helpful.

When dad's influence is negative:

- Physically or emotionally abusive toward the mother

*(Homes where the father-figure is violent toward the mother, **boys** tend to grow up to be abusive; **girls** tend to grow up to be victims)*



When dad's influence is negative:

- Sexually, or physically **abusive** toward the child?

(Physical and emotional damage leave long-term scars that pass on to the next generation)

- A father who **cannot display commitment** toward the child or who has personally **abusive** habits (*i.e. drug or alcohol abuse*).



When dad's influence is negative:

- A father who **consistently** fails to follow through on promises or who fails to provide **financial** and **emotional support** can do more harm than good, teaching a child unhealthy relationship behaviors.

*In some instances, it's important and necessary to find a **positive** male role model for the child.*

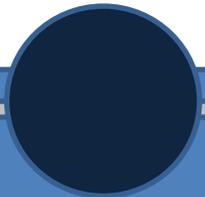


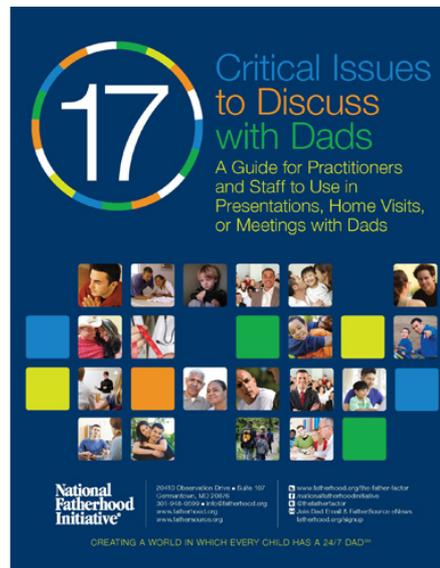
A child who does not have the **love**, **nurture**, and **guidance** of an involved, responsible, and committed father or primary male role model is two to five times more likely to use drugs, live in poverty, fail in school, and suffer from a host of other risks.



A Multi-Layered, Cross Cultural Outreach to Engage Fathers

- Centerstone's Fatherhood Engagement Service uses evidence based curriculum to help dads develop the skills needed to raise healthy, well balanced children and be an integral part of their family's success.

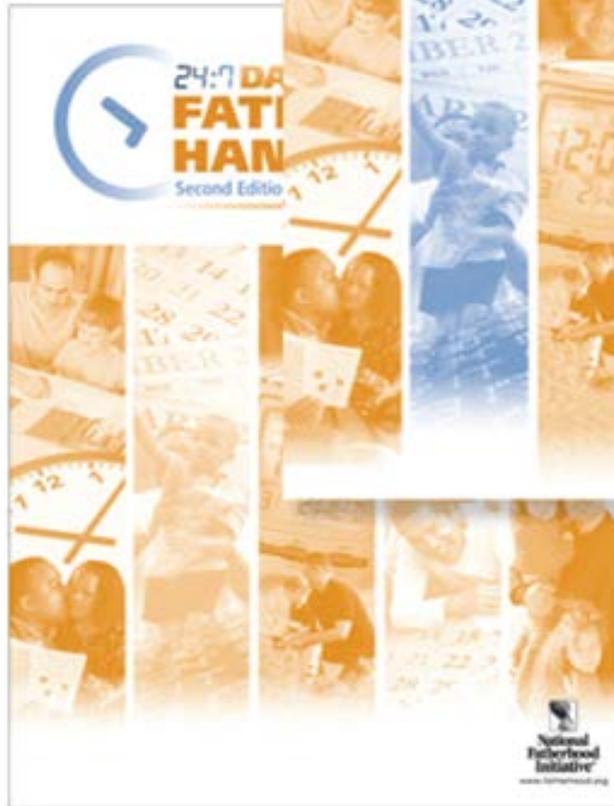




National Fatherhood Initiative®

The National Fatherhood Initiative is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization that aims to improve the well-being of children through the promotion of responsible fatherhood. Founded: 1994 and is recognized as the premier resource for fatherhood engagement.

24:7 DAD[™]
**FACILITATOR'S
MANUAL**
Second Edition {A.M.}



Developed by parenting and fatherhood experts, 24:7 Dad® A.M. and P.M. teaches men the characteristics they need to be good fathers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Used by a wide variety of organizations across the country, research shows that 24/7 Dad® successfully changes fathers' attitudes, knowledge, and skills.

The 24/7 Dad® Philosophy

24/7 Dad® is based on a philosophy that supports the growth and development of fathers and children as caring, compassionate people who treat themselves, others, and the environment with respect and dignity. This philosophical basis of caring and compassion forms the underlying structure that constitutes the values that are taught in the 24/7 Dad® programs. Each 24/7 Dad® Program consists of 12 group-based sessions that build on each other.

24/7 Dad® AM Focuses on Key Fathering Characteristics:

- Family History
- What it Means to Be a Man
- Showing and Handling Feelings
- Men's Health
- Communication
- The Father's Role
- Discipline
- Children's Growth
- Getting Involved with your Child(ren)
- Working with Mom & Co-Parenting

24/7 Dad® PM Covers More Advanced Fathering Topics:

- Fathering and the 24/7 Dad
- Boyhood to Manhood
- Dealing with Anger
- Knowing Myself (Self-Worth)
- Family Ties
- Sex, Love, Relationships
- Power and Control
- Competition and Fathering
- Improving my Communication Skills
- Fun with the Kids



The 24/7 Dad® curriculum will require each man to really examine himself, his relationship with his children and the relationship with the mother of his children. If every man who enters this program is open to change, I have no doubt in my mind he will change and for the better.

—Sterling Alexander, Vice-President, M.E.N.

If I had to rate this program [24/7 Dad®], one word: 'priceless.' It's absolutely priceless. I would say that every father, potential father and anyone thinking about being a father should be a part of this program.

—Howard Tayari, 24/7 Dad® attendee



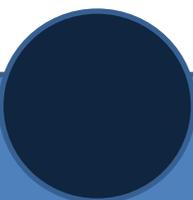
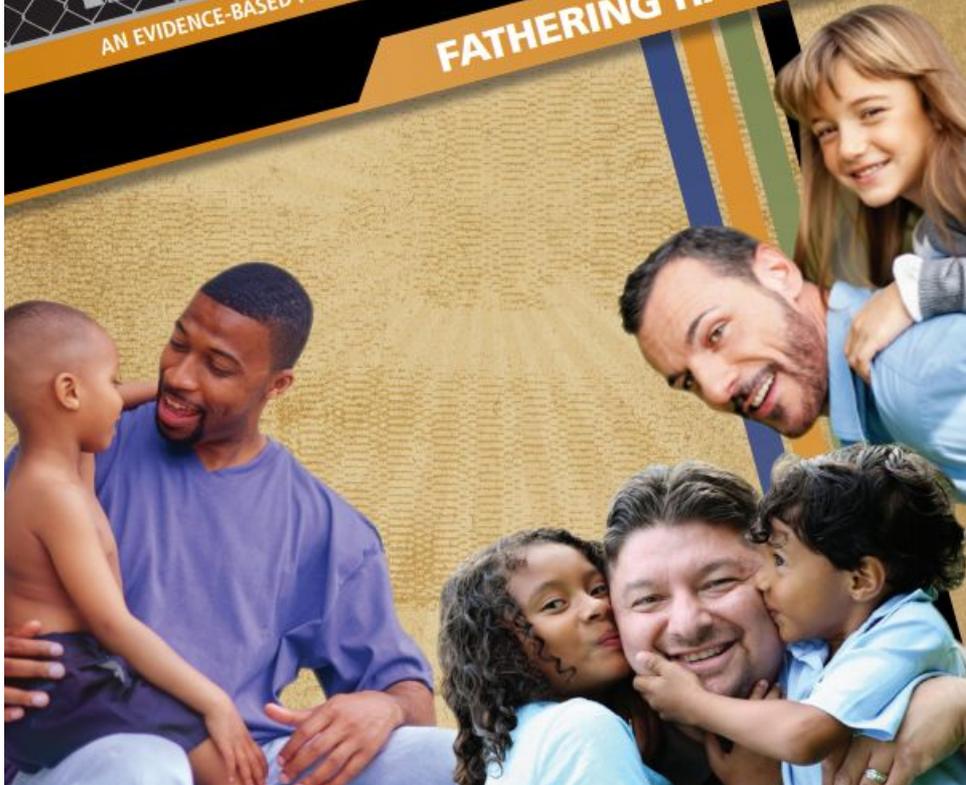
National
Fatherhood
Initiative®

www.fatherhood.org

Inside Out DAD[®] Second Edition

AN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM FOR INCARCERATED FATHERS

FATHERING HANDBOOK



“...Now, with the time of their incarceration and them being involved in the program, there is a level of sensitivity, a level of awareness of the impact, positive and negative that these fathers have had, are having, and are going to have in their children’s lives.”

—Nolan White, Lucas County
TASC, Y3

InsideOut Dad® is the nation's only evidence-based fatherhood program designed specifically for incarcerated fathers.

Standardized programming for 24 states and New York City, InsideOut Dad® helps reduce recidivism rates by reconnecting incarcerated fathers to their families, providing the motivation to get out and stay out.

Popular among both inmates and ex-offenders, InsideOut Dad® has been proven to increase family contact and improve inmate knowledge and attitudes.

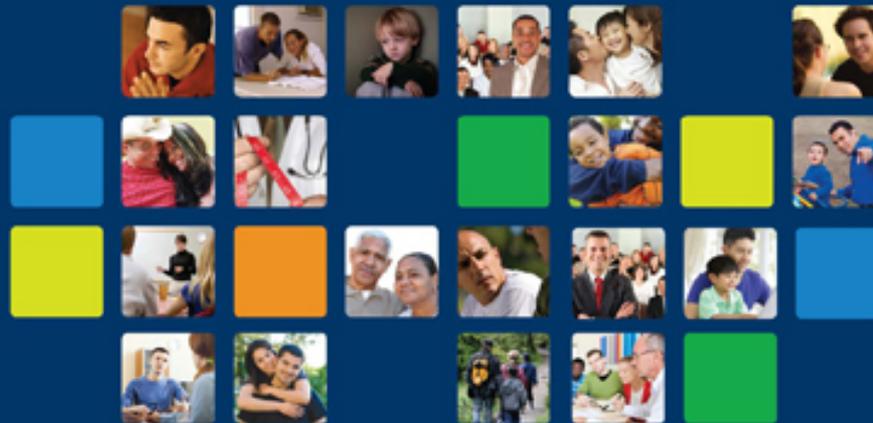
Hundreds of state and federal facilities, pre-release programs, community organizations, and more are using this life-changing reentry program.





Critical Issues to Discuss with Dads

A Guide for Practitioners
and Staff to Use in
Presentations, Home Visits,
or Meetings with Dads



**National
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www.fatherhood.org/the-father-factor
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Join Dad Email & FatherSource eNews
fatherhood.org/signup

CREATING A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY CHILD HAS A 24/7 DAD™

17 Critical Issues to Discuss with Dads: A Guide for Practitioners and Staff to Use in Presentations, Home Visits, or Meetings with Dads

This basic resource provides a way to talk with dads about the issues that matter most to helping them become more involved in the lives of their children.

This guide is a valuable resource to aide you in having discussions with dads at any time and in any setting.

Organizations who work one-on-one with dads can use this guide to lead discussions and facilitate valuable, structured conversations - especially in home-visiting settings.

In addition, this guide is extremely helpful to those who make presentations to dads in the community, such as at schools or businesses/workplaces, and for those who already run a group-based fatherhood program or workshop and wish to delve further into certain topics.

“With all the training and the sessions I attended, I think they touched on every area that we have been dealing with,...I don’t think they missed anything.”

—Keith Sears, CTE, Inc. Y1

- Organizations will be more successful in pursuing its strategic and tactical objectives and mission when they can effectively engage fathers.



According to the United States Department of Labor, **81 percent of social workers in America are women.**

Given that most social service programs and organizations focus on women, it's not surprising that the social service field is an overwhelmingly female one.

When it comes to serving fathers, **it's important to recognize some of the challenges an overwhelmingly female setting and culture can create when staff try to effectively engage fathers.**

Research in early childhood programs, for example, shows that women are more comfortable working with women.

Gender-based tension can extend to relationships between female social workers and the men and fathers their organizations serve. This tension can also be heightened by the personal histories women have with the men and fathers in their own lives.

Female social workers may unconsciously bring biases from poor relationships they have with men and fathers in their own lives and men and fathers served by their organizations into their work with families.



Over the past several decades in the number and proportion of households headed by single-mothers has increased dramatically and social workers/programs are often unsure of how to effectively work with fathers in these families.

The challenges these families present include:

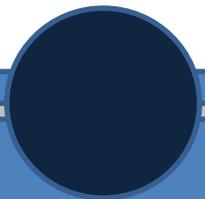
- Tensions between mothers and fathers, especially when those relationships have a history of abuse or violence.
- Locating and maintaining contact with non-custodial and non-residential fathers.



- Relationships mothers may have with men who are not their children's fathers (e.g. *boyfriends who live with mothers*) and how those relationships can complicate the relationships between mothers and the fathers, as well as, the relationships between the fathers and their children.

- Working with mothers who have children by multiple fathers.

Lack of knowledge about the desire of most fathers to be involved in the lives of their children and the challenges these fathers face in becoming involved.



All of these factors make it much easier for program staff to default to working primarily or exclusively with mothers and not reach out to fathers or other significant men in children's lives.

Unfortunately, this reluctance to reach out can have negative consequences for mothers, fathers, and children.

Mothers miss out on a healthier relationship with their children's fathers and the additional support fathers bring that will give them more resources to be better moms.



Fathers miss out on skill building opportunities that can help them be more involved, responsible, and committed fathers.

Children miss out on the unique and irreplaceable role that both mothers and fathers bring to the parenting process. It also makes social service programs less effective than they can or should be.



To lay the groundwork for effectively engaging fathers programs must buy into the importance of fathers.

- Focus on how fathers can benefit mothers, such as by increasing their ability to be good mothers through reduced stress and fewer financial worries that result from greater father involvement.
- Catch a vision of the positive effects of father involvement on children, such as increased graduation rates; increased mental, physical, and emotional health; and wholesome childhoods filled with wonderful experiences.



Practical Ways to Involve Fathers

Learn both parents' names and then remember them.

A simple, "Good day, _____," can go a long way in welcoming a father

Direct all communication—phone calls, e-mails, letters home—to both parents.

Take a look at your program's forms. Do they include a place for both parents to sign? Invite mothers and fathers to participate in meetings, conferences, and special events.



If there are fathers who are rarely home or never participate in the program, seek them out. Let them know you would like to meet them because they are so vital in their children's lives.

Make men visible. Hire male staff and recruit male volunteers.

Include books about men and fathers in your classroom library—especially books featuring male characters in nurturing roles.

Display photos/posters where fathers are pictured.



Throughout your building and at events, be sure to show children interacting with both men and women. Make sure the images of men capture nurturing or caring moments.

Encourage fathers to be involved. Think about how fathers can participate in your program. Do you invite dads every time to be involved?

Do you schedule home visits/events when fathers can participate?

Do you need chaperones for field trips?



Members for the center's advisory board?

Volunteers to frame artwork or plan a family picnic?

Adults to demonstrate their hobbies for the children?

Keep fathers updated about what is going on in your program, and invite them to contribute.



A Family Reading Event can also bring families together. Children and adults can bring their books from home. The program can provide more books, healthy snacks, and handouts with tips for reading aloud with children. Invite guest readers from the community

During events, tell fathers how important they are to their families and to you!

Hold other special events during the year. Throughout the year, plan other special family events with fathers in mind.



Home Visits/Working with Fathers

Invite fathers to participate. In several cases, fathers reported that all it took for them to move from not participating in home visits to participating was outreach from the home visitor.

“Sell” the mothers on the importance of father involvement; mothers often act as gatekeepers between fathers and the program.



Invite fathers to watch their children's reactions to new activities or give fathers a specific role or task during home visits. Fathers reported enjoying having a role during home visits.

Schedule home visits during times that fathers can attend – perhaps during lunch breaks.

Set aside homework assignments for fathers to complete with their children in the evening if fathers are unable to attend home visits.



Offer parent meetings that address topics of interest to fathers; if a program is unsure what would appeal to dads, ask them for ideas or provide a suggestion box.

Many fathers report “it takes a dad to involve other dads.” They believe programs should encourage the fathers who are already involved to spread the word to other fathers in the community.

If possible, programs should hire a father advocate to reach out to fathers during home visits or parent meetings.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

“Mom as Gateway” (National Fatherhood Initiative)

A resource to strengthen the relationships mothers have with the fathers of their children ultimately for the sake of their children.

Helps mothers often move from gatekeeper mindset to gateway when it comes to fathers' access to their children.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES Continued

Understanding Dad™ (National Fatherhood Initiative)

A group-based program with a focus on self-awareness and communication, which are both vital to improving the relationships between mothers and the fathers of their children.

The goal is to accomplish is to improve the relationships between mothers and fathers



Centerstone is committed to developing a multi-layered, cross cultural, community approach to **help** fathers understand the vital role they have in their family & child's development and to give them the skills they need to build **stronger** connections with their families, children and community.

“We’ve developed an alliance. It’s a very broad group, including [the] faith community, law enforcement, hospital, health care, education, [and] human services of course. So that’s been very helpful in terms of furthering the fatherhood effort in our community.”

— Steve Nylin,
Young Parents Network, Y1

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