

Eyes on



Father - Paternity

Different ways of being involved



Centre of Excellence
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Development

STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE
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child development

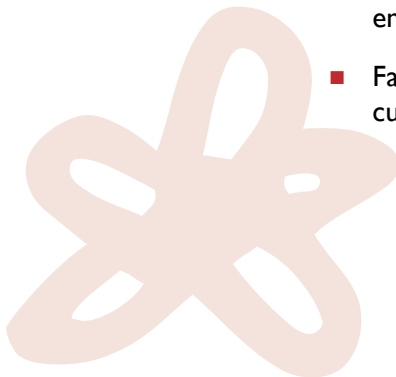
PARENTS



“Father’s involvement in child care is a protective factor in early childhood.”

What do we know?

- More and more, fathers are involved in child care. In fact, many fathers across the world go beyond the traditional role of breadwinner.
- The importance of family within a culture has an impact on fathering.
- Socio-economic factors also influence the level of fathers’ involvement in children’s lives. These factors include divorce or separation, poverty, unemployment, and separation due to the father moving to find work.
- Children who live apart from their fathers have a greater risk of behavioural and emotional problems than children who live with their biological parents.
 - However, the risk is lower when fathers continue being involved in their children’s lives (e.g., through financial and/or emotional support).
- Father’s involvement in child care is a protective factor in early childhood. Fathers play an important role in their child’s safety, emotional development, social success, and educational outcomes.
- Fathers also help to build their child’s identity by sharing cultural values.



Paying attention to...

What can be done?

... being involved in caring for your child.

- Take advantage of paternity leave to spend as much time as possible with your child during his first year.
- Get involved in the daily care of your child (e.g., feeding, bathing, caring).
- Participate in your child's early years group(s).
- Express interest and curiosity about his activities and learning experiences.
- Share your child's care with your partner whenever possible.

... the quality of your interactions with your child.

- Be sensitive and responsive to your child's needs.
- Pay attention to your child's interests and play games to improve his cognitive, emotional and language development.
- Praise, encourage and smile at your child. This will help you to develop a strong attachment to your child.

... your own attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge surrounding fatherhood.

- Learn about parenting and child development.
- Participate in early childhood programs to develop healthy fathering skills.
- Find out about programs specifically designed for fathers such as Kangaroo Care, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, and The Incredible Years.



Information

This information sheet is a publication of the Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD) and the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Early Child Development (SKC-ECD). These organizations identify and summarize the best scientific work on early childhood development. They disseminate this knowledge to a variety of audiences in formats and languages adapted to their needs.

For a more in-depth understanding of the topic Father – Paternity, consult our synthesis and experts' articles on this topic in the Encyclopedia on Early Childhood Development, available free of charge at www.child-encyclopedia.com.

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In this document, the masculine form is used merely to simplify the text. No discrimination is intended.



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