



TIP SHEET: Father Engagement



TIPS

- Father involvement—encompasses three main dimensions:
 1. **Engagement**, a father’s involvement in activities with his child;
 2. **Accessibility**, a father’s availability to his child;
 3. **Responsibility**, the extent to which a father provides his child with resources, including financial support
- Social support networks can also help buffer men’s sense of competence in parenting, especially those fathers who have lacked role models of how to be a father.
- Social support plays a vital role in the lives of parents, and when we consider fathers, it may provides a buffer from the demands and challenges associated with parenting, as well as help to alleviate the strains on energy and time experienced by parents of preschool-age children.
- Prenatal involvement may help men to develop a stronger commitment as a father, which may lead to more positive self-identity and perhaps to higher levels of motivation to remain involved following the child’s birth.
- Fathers who are involved prenatally exhibit more positive post-birth fathering behaviors, compared with fathers who are less involved.
- Social support can influence child development either directly or indirectly by providing children with direct stimulation, emotional and material support, access to a variety of opportunities, and provides a model for behaviors.
- Fathers exhibit more positive post-birth father behaviors when they are involved prenatally.
- Fathers who are involved with their partners during pregnancy and around the time of birth are more likely to exhibit higher levels and quality of involvement with their children following birth.





1. Child Welfare. The importance of fathers in the healthy development of children. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Jeffrey Rosenberg and W. Bradford Wilcox, authors. (2006).
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/fatherhood/fatherhood.pdf>
2. Children's Bureau
Provides help for at-risk children and their parents with the support, tools, and resources they need to be successful.
<https://www.all4kids.org/programs/>
3. Fathers Forward, Inc.
A nonprofit organization comprised of men who are fathers, community leaders, and professionals with life-long careers in the family and community services arena.
<https://www.fathersforward.org/#/>
4. Fathers New Mexico
The focus is on the role of the father and developing strategies for supporting healthy fatherhood.
<https://www.fathersnewmexico.org/>
5. National Fatherhood Initiative®
National Fatherhood Initiative® works to increase father involvement by equipping communities and human service organizations with the father-engagement training, programs, and resources they need to be father-inclusive.
<https://www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistic>
6. National Fatherhood Initiative
Strategies, infographics, and father facts to support the advertisement of father engagement in home visiting programs.
http://www.fatherhood.org/fatherfacts_fwd.asp
7. National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse is an Office of Family Assistance (OFA) funded national resource for fathers, practitioners, programs/Federal grantees, states, and the public at large who are serving or interested in supporting strong fathers and families.
<http://bit.ly/41lSm1b>
8. Share New Mexico
Fatherhood supports for individuals and organizations who are working to improve the quality of life for New Mexicans. <https://sharenm.org/fathers-new-mexico/fatherhood-supports>

