The Dad Effect:
Engaging Fathers in Their Children’s Lives and in Home Visiting
RESOURCES 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.
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
- 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