

Father Involvement

Children succeed when dad takes an interest

Does a dad's influence impact the academic performance of his children?

Definitely.

Positive father engagement is a protective factor further securing success for sons and daughters.

Consider these facts:

Children with involved fathers are more likely to:

- have higher GPAs, (Astone & McLanahan, 1991)
- obtain higher scores on reading achievement (many studies)
- enjoy school (NCOFF, 2000) and have positive attitudes toward school (Flouri et al, 2002)
- graduate from high school

Children with involved fathers are less likely to:

- fail a grade, have poor attendance, be suspended or expelled, or have behaviour problems at school, (Astone & McLanahan, 1991; Brown & Rife, 1991; Mosley & Thompson, 1995; National Center for Education Statistics, 1997; Nord & West, 2001; William, 1997).

Further:

- fathers' talk with toddlers is characterized by more wh- questions (who, what, etc.), which requires children to assume more communicative responsibility in the interaction (Rowe, Cocker, & Pan, 2004)
- a father's academic support was positively related to adolescent boys' academic motivation - to try hard in school, to feel their grades were important, and to place a high value on education (Alfaro, Umana-Taylor, & Bamaca, 2006)
- positive father involvement in 10th grade predicted fewer problem behaviours in 11th grade (Zimmerman, et.al, 2000)



Involved Fathers

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Play | with their children's best interests in mind and enjoy being with them |
| Learn | and are engaged in their children's academic and social life |
| Provide | all the necessities of life – shelter, food, emotional stability, etc. |
| Connect | from the beginning and do all they can to keep that connection |
| Respect | and value the role moms and others have in their children's lives |



We urge you to ensure that fathers are a part of a child's academic life - both at home and at school.

Here are ways that schools can encourage greater father involvement:

- ensure fathers are specifically invited to parent-teacher meetings, school performances, etc.
- engage fathers in conversations about their child's school life
- invite fathers to attend classes and talk about their career
- place father involvement posters around the school
- make certain fathers are represented on school councils
- contact Dad Central for a father-friendly check-up of your school

Fathers who are highly engaged with their children are also more likely to be involved in the community. These dads make a great resource through volunteering at and serving their child's school.

We strongly believe that involved fathers build strong children who give back a tremendous amount to their schools and communities.

Remember . . . a father who is responsibly involved will encourage school performance and be a respectable resource for the school.

And that is good for everyone's future . . .



Want more information?

For more on the impact an involved father has on children, on mothers, and on the community, please see:

*The Effects of Father Involvement:
An Updated Research Summary of
Evidence*

by Sarah Allen and Kerry Daly,
2007, available at dadcentral.ca.



Ways Dad Central can help:

- resources for fathers
- father involvement posters
- father-sensitivity training opportunities
- curriculum ideas on fathering issues for Gr 5-8 students

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Fatherhood:

It's the Best Job on the Planet