

DADICATION



Discussion Guide for At-Home Viewing



This discussion guide is designed for at-home viewing with family and friends. We invite you to fill up a bowl of popcorn, watch, reflect, and then use some of the discussion questions to share your reactions to the movie.

Overview of DADication

Involved fathers make essential contributions to their children’s well-being, even when parenting during tough times and circumstances. That’s what we at the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse (NRFC) call Dadication. We applaud and support all dads who show up for their kids, especially when parenting isn’t easy.

The DADication documentary features fathers who appeared in our [Dadication PSAs](#) and includes additional testimony from fathers and fatherhood practitioners. The short documentary emphasizes how essential fathers are to the lives of their children, illustrates the impact of growing up without a father, provides examples of fathers overcoming numerous barriers to be present for their kids, and demonstrates how fathers and their children are flourishing as a result. Be ready to shed a tear as you hear their stories.

The documentary was produced by the Ad Council and Campbell Ewald in partnership with the NRFC and the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. You can download the video and other companion documents from the DADication documentary page at [Fatherhood.gov](#).

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE:

You can use the following discussion questions to share your reactions and thoughts after watching the documentary. The questions are arranged in the order in which the topic or quote comes up in the video. We provide specific time marks so you can either watch the whole movie before beginning your discussion or you can choose to stop the video at specific points in order to cover a question immediately.

You can switch up the order in which you cover the questions, based on the direction in which the conversation flows, and choose whether to cover all or some of the questions depending on the time available.

We include a section at the end of this document with links to NRFC resources that provide additional information and may be helpful in following up on specific issues or questions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [0:59] In the opening scene, Durrell Lyons says:

"My dad wasn't around ... but when my children fell, I was always there to pick them up and put them back on and say, 'do it again' ... now they ride their bikes through the neighborhood."

DISCUSS: How do you think not having his dad around influenced Durrell as a father?

DISCUSS: Was your dad around to teach you things? If so, what did he teach you?

DISCUSS: If he wasn't around much, how has that affected how you parent your kids?



2. [1:20] In the same clip, Durrell talks about how his kids learned to ride a bike even though he never learned how to do so. He says:

"I didn't teach them. I just created an environment where they taught themselves ... Sometimes you don't have to know everything, you just gotta be there."

DISCUSS: What do you think about what Durrell said?

DISCUSS: How are you teaching your kids?

DISCUSS: What's something you've taught your kids that you're proud of?

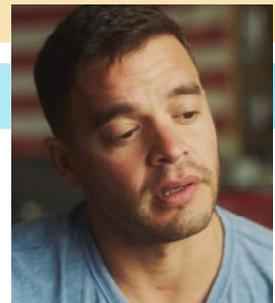


3. [2:00] Juan Scalone talks about how his two kids are different from each other.

DISCUSS: If you have more than one child, are your kids similar or different?

DISCUSS: If they are different, in what ways?

DISCUSS: Do you parent them differently?



4. [2:10] Durrell Lyons says:

"It's such a validating feeling when your 7-year-old son calls you his best buddy."

DISCUSS: Have you had that kind of experience with your kids?

DISCUSS: When is it hard to be your child's "best buddy"?



5. [2:16] Quintavious Greggs says:

"I used to wish my first child was a boy but having a girl, you learn so much from a girl ... my baby, she's my life."

DISCUSS: Do you think fathers learn different things from their sons than they do from their daughters? If so, what do girls teach us that differs from boys?

DISCUSS: Do you need to parent girls and boys in different ways?



6. [2:37] Kenneth Braswell says:

"I remember when I got the news of the birth of my first daughter, and the first emotion I had was [feeling that] I was scared to death."

DISCUSS: How did you feel when you first became a father?

DISCUSS: How have you learned to be a father since then?



7. [4:01] Joseph Stiltner says:

"I missed so much with my first child because of addiction and the situation with his mother. It doesn't get easier to stay away, but it really feels like it gets harder to come back ... it's a guilt that I kinda live with every day."

DISCUSS: Have you felt like that? If so, how do you deal with that feeling of guilt?

DISCUSS: If you've had a difficult relationship with a coparent, have you been able to improve that relationship?

- If so, how?
- If not, what supports do you think you and your coparent need?



8. [4:52] Kenneth Braswell explains that he didn't meet his father until he was 23 years old, when his daughter was 2 years old:

"I wanted to be the father for my child that he wasn't for me ... but I'd gotten disconnected [from her]."

[5:20] He goes on to talk about one day when he was excited because he was going to see his daughter. He sees her and her mother coming out of the door:

"They walk towards me, and they walked right past me ... either she didn't see me, or she doesn't know me ... it killed me."

DISCUSS: What was your relationship like with your father?

DISCUSS: Have you ever experienced how Kenneth felt after seeing his daughter walk right past him? If so, how did you address that disappointment?



9. [9:39] Quintavious Greggs says:

"I made a lot of promises to myself I have to keep, and I came home to live for my purpose. Since I've been home from prison, it's like walking into heaven. I got custody of my daughter. That's a beautiful picture, there ain't nothing like being a father in this world."

DISCUSS: Would you agree that there's nothing like being a father?

DISCUSS: How would you describe the feeling of being a father?

DISCUSS: Have you made promises to yourself?

DISCUSS: Have you been able to keep those promises? If not, what got in the way?



[NOTE: If you slip up occasionally, don't be too hard on yourself. We're all learning as we grow. Sometimes, just knowing when we've screwed up (and being able to apologize) is a real sign of growth.]

10. [10:05] Juan Scalone talks about a special moment with his children:

"When they see something new, and it just clicks in their brain, I just realized I could do this. You just see in their faces. It's such an incredible moment."

DISCUSS: Have you had moments like that, where suddenly your child learned something new?

DISCUSS: How did you feel when that happened?

DISCUSS: What do you think you did to help create that moment for them?



11. [10:38] Durrell Lyons talks about a time when he suffered from depression and anxiety:

"That depression ended up rolling downhill. My wife was critically depressed, and it emptied into my daughter ... [I was] coming down on her hard for stuff that's really not her fault."

[11:20] He goes on to explain that he finally figured out he was the one with the problem and realized:

"It's not about me. Whatever happens to me and affects me mentally and physically, it's gonna run downhill. And my children are part of that hill."

DISCUSS: What's your reaction to that clip?

DISCUSS: How does stress affect the way you parent your children?

DISCUSS: How can you prevent the stress you feel from affecting your children?



12. [11:48] Cosette Bowles talks about how disputes between parents (e.g., about custody of their children or payment of child support) can have a negative impact on child well-being.

"I think that's really important. This is not a fight, it's not a contest where somebody wins and somebody loses, except your children."

DISCUSS: Do you sometimes feel like you're in a fight or a contest for your children with your coparent?

DISCUSS: How do you think your children feel if they see you and your coparent fighting? Do they blame themselves?

DISCUSS: If you and your coparent have had a difficult relationship, have you been able to find ways to improve that relationship?

- If so, how?
- If not, what supports do you think you and your coparent need?



13. [12:31] Kenneth Braswell asks:

"Where do we [men] go for help? Who do we ask when we're feeling vulnerable?"

DISCUSS: What kind of help do you think dads need the most?

DISCUSS: Are you able to get help and support when you need it?

DISCUSS: How can you help other dads?



14. [13:01] Mohammad Fahmy says:

"Internally, we're thinking, 'Am I doing the right thing, Am I being a good parent?'"

[13:36] Juan Scalone says:

"As a dad, as a male, sometimes you feel alone."

DISCUSS: Have you ever felt like Mohammad or Juan?

DISCUSS: Do you ever feel like you don't know what to do as a dad?

DISCUSS: Where do you typically get support—friends, family, elsewhere?



NRFC Resources

Check out these resources to find additional information or answer questions that may arise during your discussions.

- [Coparenting Tips for Dads](#)
- [Safety Tips for Dads to Keep Babies Safe \(infants under 1 year\)](#)
- [Safety Tips for Dads to Keep Young Kids Safe \(ages 1 to 4 years\)](#)
- [Safety Tips for Dads to Keep School-Age Kids Safe \(ages 5 to 14 years\)](#)
- [Safety Tips for Dads to Keep Teens Safe \(ages 15 to 19 years\)](#)
- [Tips for Dads: Cook with your Kids!](#)
- [Helping Fathers Manage their Children's Screen Time](#)

This discussion guide was developed by Nigel Vann at Fathers Incorporated and Diego Quezada at MDRC, with assistance from Dina Israel (MDRC) and Dzu Bui (The Ad Council), on behalf of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse under contract to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance.

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