



U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
Administration for Children  
and Families  
Office of Family Assistance

[www.fatherhood.gov](http://www.fatherhood.gov)

## Celebrating Father's Day

June 2009



### Special Activities for Dad's Special Day

Too often, Father's Day is recognized with a greeting card or a less than flattering tie—neither of which has real meaning or adequately expresses the thanks the dads in your program deserve for all they do throughout the year. This year, your program has the opportunity to make Father's Day meaningful and memorable for the dads with whom you work. Start by encouraging them to be positive role models for their children and become involved in their children's lives.

#### Program Activities for Father's Day

Take advantage of the opportunities Father's Day presents to incorporate special activities into your programming.

**Discuss past Father's Day experiences** – Ask fathers how they have celebrated (or not celebrated) Father's Day in the past, not only with their children but also with their own fathers.

**Read a National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse *Spotlight on Dads* as a group** – These resources tackle parenting topics for today's dads and feature thought-provoking questions to guide your discussion. The *Spotlight on Dads* series also includes suggestions for books and films that dads can read and watch with their children.

**Schedule an activity day** – Brainstorm with fathers about a program activity they can participate in with their children. Let the fathers decide on and plan an activity, then bring in their kids for an afternoon or evening. A board game night can be fun for dads and kids alike. Have games on hand for children of different ages. Serve healthy snacks, such as veggies, that dads might already have at home.

#### Every Day Is Father's Day at Home

Keep the momentum going with at-home activities for dads:

- Print extra copies of the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse *Spotlight on Dads* series for fathers to read on their own.
- Brainstorm with your staff to develop a list of community activities that dads and their kids can do together.
- Create decks of dad activity cards. Fathers can pick from the deck when they are looking for things to do with their children.
- Start and stock a lending library. Encourage dads to contribute and share books they have read with their kids so other dads can enjoy them with their children.

Fathers face issues and challenges year round. On Father's Day and every day, your program can support them through struggles and celebrate their successes. Working as a group, both fathers and program staff will learn and be inspired to be the best dads they can be.

*Take Time to Be a Dad Today*