

Fanning the Fatherhood **FIRE**:

A National Fatherhood Summit
June 4-6, 2019 | Nashville, Tennessee



Family-focused  Interconnected
Resilient  Essential

W8 The Essential Role of Engaged Fathers in Head Start Programs

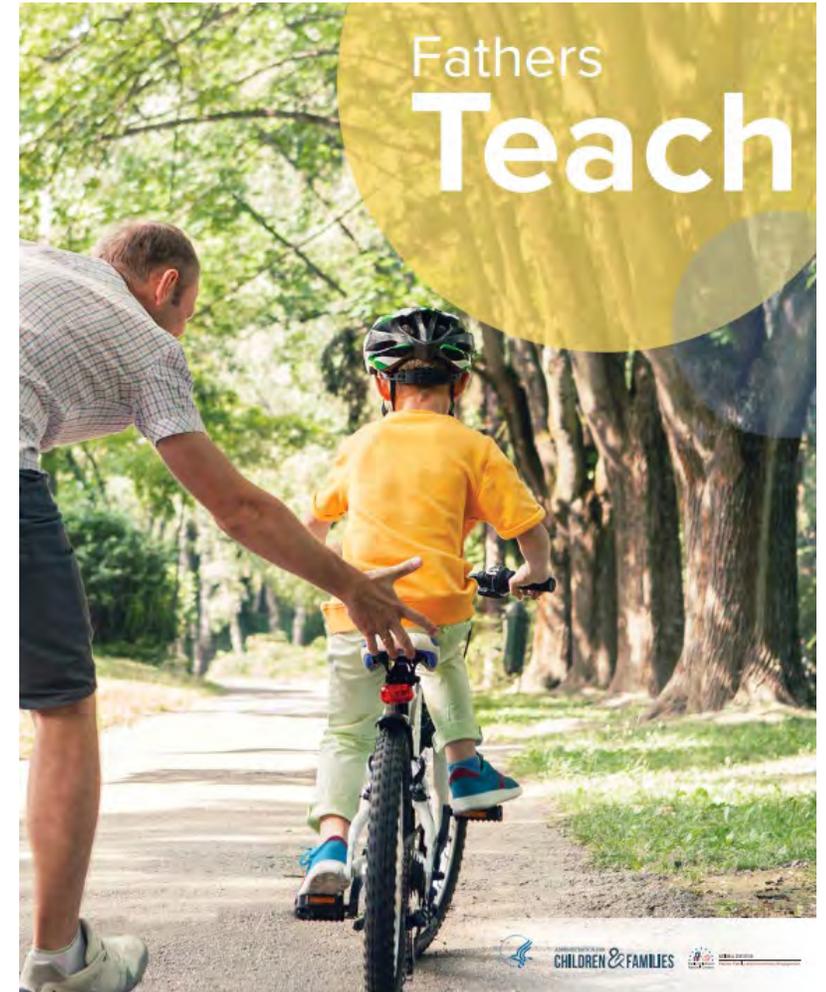
Presenters:

David Jones, Management Analyst,
Office of Head Start,
Washington, D.C.

Dr. John Hornstein, Faculty,
National Center on Parent, Family, and
Community Engagement,
Portland, Maine

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn innovative approaches and strategies used to engage fathers.
- Participants will better understand how professional development for staff contributes to enhanced outcomes for families.
- Participants will walk away with strategies to establish partnerships with community stakeholders in support of father engagement efforts.



NATIONAL CENTER ON
Parent, Family and Community Engagement

Fathers are:

Family-focused
Interconnected
Resilient
Essential

F.I.R.E.



Reflections:



Fatherhood History in Head Start

- Expectations
- Relationships & Full Engagement
- Acknowledging
- Designing Services
- Awareness
- Involving



FATHERS MATTER: What the Research Says

Fathers become attached
to their infants.
Lamb (2004)

Early father involvement predicts
continued involvement.
Brazelton

Men are fully capable of nurturing
young children.
Pruett (1997)





FATHERS MATTER:
In interactions...

bonding intense and early
two weeks: learn and distinguish
father's voice
stretch and challenge
language competency
stricter and demanding
more exploratory, independent
behavior; more physical and
stimulating play



FATHERS MATTER: In the lives of children

- early, exploratory behavior
- later language development
- problem-solving skills
- manage emotions and impulses



FATHERS MATTER: In the lives of children



- secure, explore, independent, new skills
- 5th grade math and reading skills
- active toddlers = fathers with a lower BMI



FATHERS and MOTHERS MATTER

Children are...

- happy
- healthy
- socially and academically successful
- prepared for a variety of experiences



Expectations

What do staff expect from families?

What do families expect of staff?

What do staff expect from fathers?

What do fathers expect of staff?



FATHERS' ROLES

Provider



Disciplinarian



Nurturer
Protector
Spiritual Advisor
Educator
Advocate
Caregiver
Provider
Friend
Play Mate



Reflecting on our own programs...

What kinds of things are being done in your program or organization to foster relationships with fathers?



REALITY CHECK



CONNECTING

- What does it mean to connect with fathers?

- What are the potential benefits?
- What, if any, are the costs?
- Unintended consequences?

MOVING from INVOLVEMENT to ENGAGEMENT



The Status Quo

- Breakfasts
- Dinners
- Picnics



Systemic, Integrated,
Comprehensive

- Pick Up/Drop Off
- During Home Visits/Socializations
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Program Meetings / Policy Council
- Other thoughts...



Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework

Positive & Goal-Oriented Relationships

Equity, Inclusiveness, Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness

PROGRAM FOUNDATIONS	PROGRAM IMPACT AREAS	FAMILY OUTCOMES	CHILD OUTCOMES
<p>Program Leadership</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement</p>	<p>Program Environment</p> <p>Family Partnerships</p> <p>Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Community Partnerships</p> <p>Access and Continuity</p>	<p>Family Well-being</p> <p>Positive Parent-Child Relationships</p> <p>Families as Lifelong Educators</p> <p>Families as Learners</p> <p>Family Engagement in Transitions</p> <p>Family Connections to Peers and Community</p> <p>Families as Advocates and Leaders</p>	<p>Children are:</p> <p>Safe</p> <p>Healthy and well</p> <p>Learning and developing</p> <p>Engaged in positive relationships with family members, caregivers, and other children</p> <p>Ready for school</p> <p>Successful in school and life</p>



MORE RESOURCES: Father Engagement

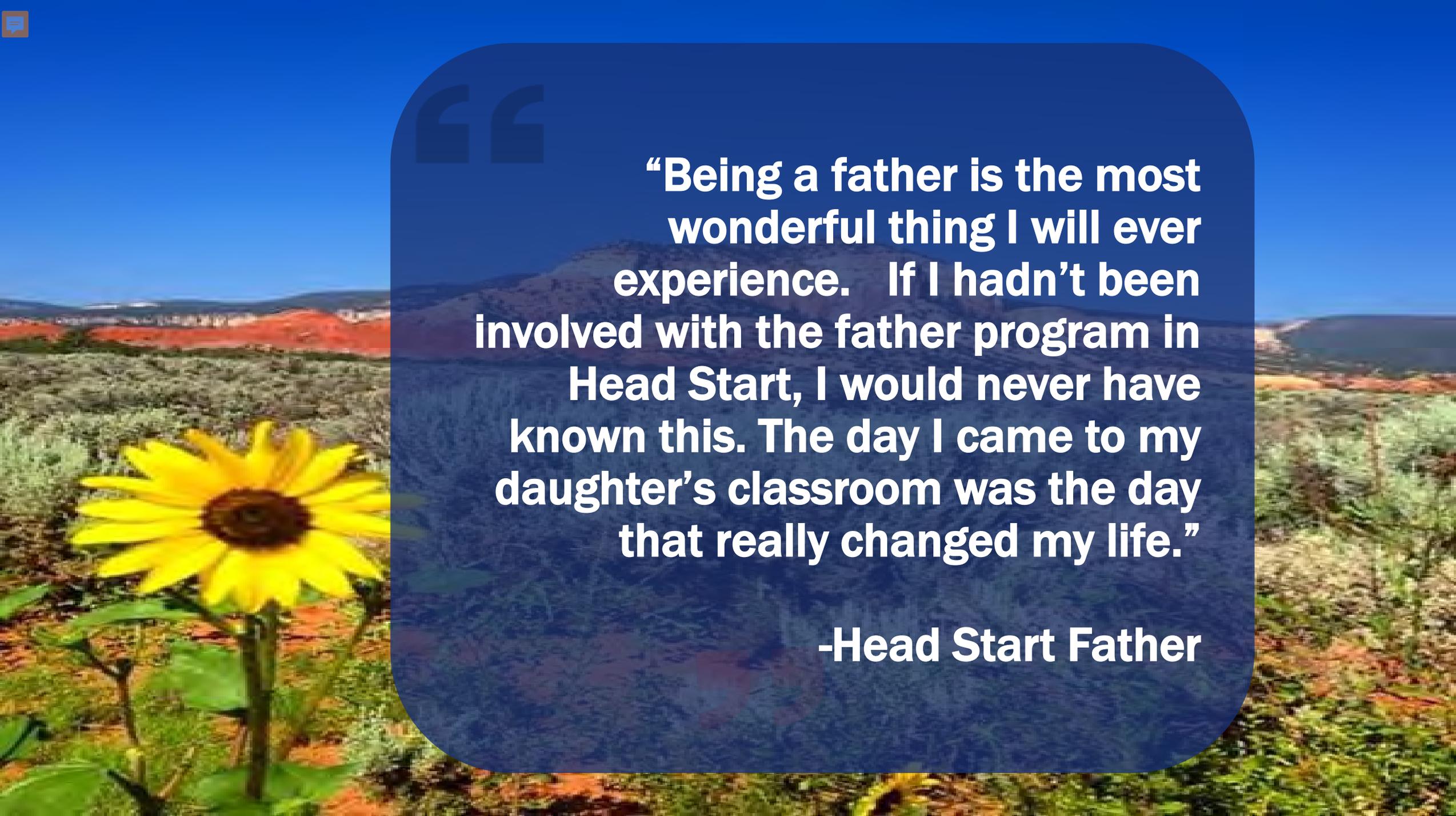
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/engaging-fathers>



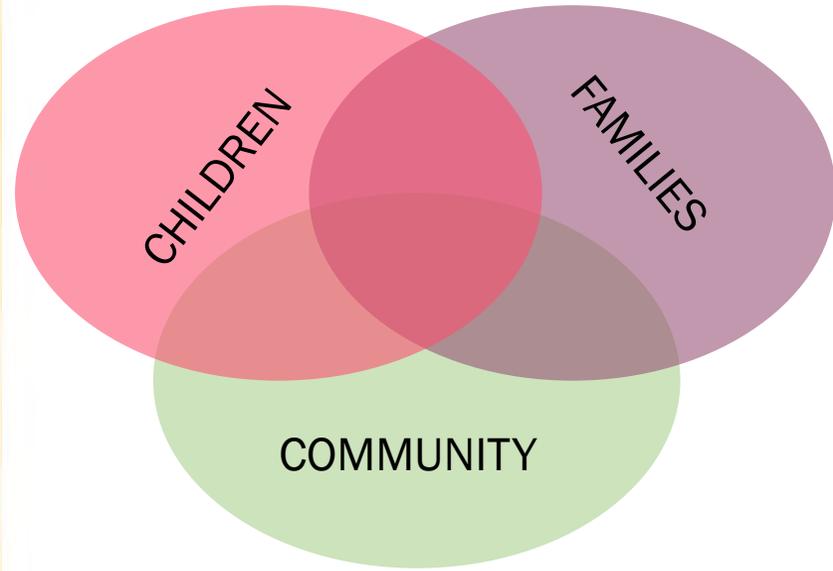


“Being a father is the most wonderful thing I will ever experience. If I hadn’t been involved with the father program in Head Start, I would never have known this. The day I came to my daughter’s classroom was the day that really changed my life.”

-Head Start Father



FATHERS ARE IMPORTANT TO THEIR...



Focus on relationship building with fathers.

Explore how program leadership, continuous improvement, and professional development supports father engagement in your program.

Utilize the Father Engagement Resources to:

- Assess Family & Father Engagement
- Hold Thoughtful Conversations
- Conduct Program Planning
- Engage in Staff Development
- Implement, Evaluate, Review



DADDY DAYS

by David Jones, Fatherhood Specialist

I sat on daddy's lap
Every chance I could get
He'd make silly faces
Until my face was wet

Giggling with joy
Tears streaming down my face
I cherished this special time
The kitchen table his favorite place

He'd lean back in his chair
Head slightly touching the wall
I was always worried
At any second he might fall

He'd take cherry tobacco
A smell that filled the room
Impact it deep into his pipe
Each and every afternoon

After he was settled
He'd had time to relax
He drank his favorite coffee
As momma scratched his back

After she had finished
And he was satisfied
He'd sit next to the fireplace
And call me to his side

He'd pull a book from the shelf
Sometimes he let me read
He'd always tell a story
And then he would proceed

To take me to many places
In faraway lands
Sometimes when I was scared
He'd gently take my hand

Each night before he finished
And momma would tuck me in
He'd sneak into the room
And tickle me again

I hugged his neck so tight
Sometimes he couldn't breathe
A relationship with my father
Fulfilled a special need!



Questions and Answers



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Stay in touch with us!

Contact Information:



NATIONAL CENTER ON

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

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