Why Dads and Who Cares?

a Wheeler webinar

presented by Doug Edwards

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learning objectives

- Why does CT have a Fatherhood Initiative?
- Why do Dads matter to Moms and kids?
- Why do Dads matter to our communities?
- Why do we need to partner with Dads?
Honest Review of Daughter’s Kitchen

I have been waiting on my order to get done for 45 minutes, and I’m the only customer here. She was making good progress at first, then she stopped for 20 minutes to go watch Paw Patrol . . . Overall, the customer service could be better, but the cook is a cutie; so, I’ll give her another chance.
• Initial Act, P.A. 99-193, passed in 1999
  An Act Establishing a Fatherhood Initiative, a
  Fatherhood Council and a Research & Demonstration
  Program and Concerning Other Methods to Strengthen
  Child Support Enforcement PUBLIC ACT NO. 99-193
  FOR SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 6466
• P.A. 99-193 codified in CGS Section 17b-27a
  John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative of Connecticut
  CHAPTER 319O - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
  (CT.GOV)
• Senate Bill 289, passed 2022 session
  An Act Concerning Oversight and Funding of The
  Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative
  AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT AND FUNDING OF
  THE CONNECTICUT FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE.

• If you are a part of a system serving fathers and
  families in CT, WE ARE YOU!
• The CFI is a statewide multi-agency collaboration, led
  by DSS, working toward a common goal: to support
  children, mothers and fathers by focusing on the
  important influence of men who are or will be in
  fathering roles
• CFI partners do this through systems change efforts
  as well as supporting direct services and
  programming for fathers
• We are committed to racial equity, gender equity and
  safe engagement of fathers with their children.
Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative - YouTube

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Website
CT 2-1-1 Webinar and Contact Information

https://portal.ct.gov/fatherhood

Early prenatal visits
Nutrition, exercise, stress management
Smoking, substance abuse
Understand mom and baby
Co parenting
Communication

Full term
Adequate weight
Paternity establishment
Breast feeding
Together more than 3 years
Emotional, financial support

dad’s value during the pregnancy
STILL FACE

experiment created by
Dr. Ed Tronick

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUwEwv3Wl58

messages

barriers to good father involvement

- man up
- take risks
- handle it
- don’t cry
- mask up
- dominate
- don’t compromise
- no check-ups
- can’t celebrate failure
- fake strength
- bury things
- secret depression
- resist partnering
- stubborn

Armor causes us to lose the deep joy of connection, of attachment, and of intimacy.
He cares, means he loves me
Children love to rise to high expectations
Enhanced enjoyment of school
Better emotional regulation
More likely to get A’s
More likely to graduate
Less likely to get suspended or expelled
Less criminal justice system involvement
Men need to be called out!

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communities matter

Inside / Get

• nest building
• family
• relationship modeling
• responsibility

Outside / Give

• responsibility
• connection
• volunteer
• change
### Partnering Matters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prenatal care</th>
<th>Health care</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Workplace</th>
<th>Courts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We leave them out and then we wonder why they don't show up.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Don't commit</th>
<th>It's Mom's job</th>
<th>I'm a provider</th>
<th>No role model</th>
<th>Failure fear</th>
<th>Self-worth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We step/stay out and then we wonder why you don't invite us in.</td>
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### Opportunities for Relationship Building

- Know your family
- Maintain a list of providers
- Know your fatherhood service provider
- Know your fatherhood program facilitator
- Keep their program material available
- Provide a warm handoff
- Do a follow-up check
- Recommend and use 211
Father Friendly Site Assessment

- Staff Approach
- Policies
- Practices
- Physical Environment

Respond to your *partner’s challenge* with compassionate curiosity about their subjective experience.
In a young child who has not felt some form of masculine nurture, the hunger for a paternal presence can be insatiable.

Dr. Kyle Pruett, Yale Child Study Center
The guy that does the job gets the title.
color him father

color him love

by The WINSTONS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQdd1RjWFV8
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Thank You!