

Practical Tips to Engage Fathers in Home Visiting Programs

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Agenda

- Present fatherhood strategies used in home visiting programs
- Facilitate opportunities to apply strategies to your setting
- Present research done on engaging fathers in home visiting programs
- MD Father Readiness Project Overview
- Share NFI resources used successfully in home visiting programs
- Questions & Answers



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Poll Question

Our home visiting program is intentional about engaging dads in home visits:

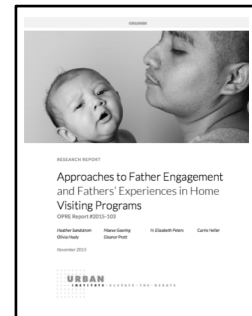
- All the time
- Sometimes
- We need help!
- Not really
- Never



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Approaches to Father Engagement & Fathers' Experiences in HV Programs

- Find report at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/20151130_fa_hv_report_finalized_b508.pdf



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Approaches to Father Engagement & Fathers' Experiences in HV Programs

- Home visiting programs implement different approaches to engage fathers
- Some programs have broader fatherhood programs that include peer support groups and outings
- Programs implement multiple strategies to reach fathers and keep them engaged
- Home visitors face challenges recruiting & engaging fathers
- Fathers report the benefits of participation in home visits and other program activities



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Feedback from HV Programs and Staff

- Survey of more than 100 HV webinar attendees
 - Topics of most need and interest
- Telephone interviews with home visitation programs that use NFI resources
 - Traditional and innovative uses



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Feedback, cont.

- Learnings from providing TA to statewide home visitation programs (e.g. Texas and Tennessee)
 - Use evidence-based home visitation programs/models (e.g. Nurse-Family Partnership, HIPPPY, and Parents as Teachers)
 - Helped integrate NFI resources into and developed customized resources for programs/models



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Job to be Done

Engaging dads in...
the most meaningful and in-depth way possible.

#JTBD

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Pain Points

- ① Lack of **time** to engage dads
- ② Lack of **opportunity** to engage dads
- ③ Lack of **flexibility** in how to engage dads
- ④ Difficulty knowing what to **discuss with dads and moms** around father involvement
- ⑤ Lack of **father-specific** resources



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Strategies for Home Visits

- Engage the moms
- Did you know?
 - Overall, the implication is that the relationship between father's perceived investment in their actual levels of paternal involvement are moderated by mothers beliefs about the role of the father.
 - There is a strong implication that mothers perceptions of the paternal role are better predictors of father involvement than fathers' own perceptions of the paternal role.

Paternal Identity, Maternal Gatekeeping, and Father Involvement
(Family Relations, 54 (July 2005), 360-372. Blackwell Publishing.)



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Strategies for Home Visits

- Engage the moms
 - Conduct the visit as a family structure
 - Give moms information to give to the dads
 - Bring up the importance of the father's (or father-figure's) involvement to the moms in future visits even if the mom initially said no to the dad's involvement
 - Understand **WHY** the mom might resist the dad's involvement in the home visits
 - Understand **WHY** the dad might resist participating in the home visits



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Strategies for Home Visits

- Engage the moms
 - Use resources and programs that can help raise mom's awareness of the unique and irreplaceable role the father of their child plays in their child's well-being



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Making it Relevant for You!

- What is one specific task that you can do within the next week with moms in your home visits that will help them encourage the father or father-figure to participate in upcoming home visits?



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Strategies for Home Visits

Revisit how you measure father involvement in the home visits

- Did you know?
 - Most home visiting programs measure success solely on how many dads show up at the home visits
 - Fathers are participating in the programs in ways that we aren't measuring

Child and Family Research Partnership, LBI School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin (2014)



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Strategies for Home Visits

Revisit how you measure father involvement in the home visits

- Preliminary research shows that fathers practice home visiting lessons or homework with children or partners
 - How many dads have engaged in activities with their children between visits?



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Strategies for Home Visits

“It’s not even necessary to ask anymore. I just open the door [when I get home] and my daughter runs to me with the activities in her hand that she worked on and she tells me what they did [during the visit] and I begin to work with her.”

- Father, Dallas



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Strategies for Home Visits

Revisit how you measure father involvement in the home visits

- Preliminary research shows that fathers ask their children and partners questions about home visits
 - How many dads are involved by asking questions about what the home visits covered?



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Strategies for Home Visits

“He would love to be there for the visits, but his work schedule isn’t able to allow it. We go over everything that happened when he gets home, so it’s like he was there too.”

- Mother, East Texas



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Making it Relevant for You!

- How can you begin tracking and assessing father involvement differently in your home visits?
- What is one step you can take in the next week to institutionalize these tracking changes?



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Strategies for Home Visits

Conduct staff role plays

- Create scenarios where:
 - Dad is not physically there for the visit
 - Dad is physically around the house during the visit, but not engaged
 - Dad is there and engaged



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Making it Relevant For You!

- If you don't currently have role play opportunities, what would be your next step in making those available?
- If you already have role play opportunities, what is one way you can improve that process for yourself or other staff?



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Strategies for Home Visits

- Consider using a home visitor/fatherhood advocate tandem model
- Did you know?
 - The Lourdes' Parents and Children Together (PACT) program saw a 47% increase in father involvement during the first year using this model



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Strategies for Home Visits

Home Visitor/Fatherhood Advocate Approach

- Lourdes PACT Case Study
 - Parents and Children Together
 - Established 1989
 - Healthy Families America and Parents As Teachers model
 - 14 female home visitors/4 Fatherhood Advocates/3 supervisors/1 manager
 - 421 families/451 children served



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Strategies for Home Visits

Home Visitor/Fatherhood Advocate Approach

- Lourdes PACT Case Study
 - Researched current practices
 - Tandem Visit
 - Reporting Out to Staff
 - Got "buy-in" from funders
 - Mine vs. Ours
 - Interview Questions



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Making it Relevant for You!

- What is one thing you can do in the next week to consider the viability of the Fatherhood Advocate Tandem site visit model?



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MD MIECHV Father Readiness Project Overview

Component 1

- Partnership with MD MIECHV and DOH
- Father-Readiness Network Assessment (FRNA)
 - Unique form of technical assistance that allows a network of organizations to assess that network's readiness to engage fathers in programs and services at the individual and network-wide levels.



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MD MIECHV Father Readiness Project Overview

Component 1

- Comprehensive organizational assessment of "father-friendliness" or "father-readiness"
- Assessment Categories
 - Leadership Development
 - Organizational Development
 - Program Development
 - Community Engagement
- 130-item questionnaire (5-point Likert Scale)
- Receive score for each category

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MD MIECHV Father Readiness Project Overview

Component 1

- Developed 1st version in 2000
- Current 5th version (2016) is the culmination of 17 years of use and feedback
- Used by thousands of diverse organizations
- Primary tool for the National Responsible Fatherhood Capacity-Building Initiative (NRFCCI)
 - 5-year project
 - 119 organizations
 - Received feedback on its value and usefulness

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MD MIECHV Father Readiness Project Overview

Component 1

- MD MIECHV will use results to inform a statewide father-friendly plan with no- and low-cost tactics to increase father-friendliness of local home visiting programs
- Ensures all home visiting programs promote the active participation and inclusion of healthy fathers in the lives of their children

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MD MIECHV Father Readiness Project Overview

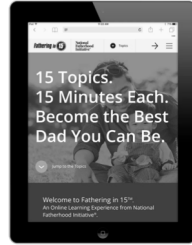
Component 2

- Webinar-Based Technical Assistance
- Presentation of assessment results
- Assistance on how to turn the results into an action plan to more effectively engage fathers.
- The plan can be:
 - Standardized at the state level
 - Individual at the local level
 - Combination

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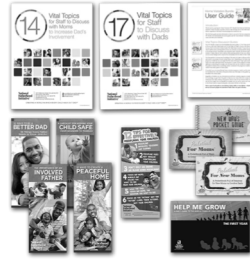
Additional Resources Used In Home Visits



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Home Visitation Bundle



The Home Visitation Bundle Includes:

- 1 Home Visitation Bundle User Guide
- 1 (50pk) Brochure: 10 Ways to Be a Better Dad
- 1 (50pk) Brochure: The Importance of an Involved Father
- 1 (50pk) Brochure: A Checklist for Keeping Your Child Safe from Newborn to Toddler
- 1 (50pk) Brochure: Creating a Peaceful Home for Your Family
- 1 (50pk) Tip Card: 10 Tips for Expectant Dads
- 1 (50pk) Tip Card: 10 Tips for New Dads
- 1 (50pk) Tip Card: 10 Tips on Co-Parenting for the Sake of Your Child
- 1 (50pk) Tip Card: 12 Tips for Effectively Disciplining Your Children
- 3 (5pk) New Dad's Pocket Guide
- 3 (5pk) Help Me Grow: The First Year
- 3 (5pk) New Moms: A Pocketbook Full of Reasons for New Moms to Involve Dads
- 3 (5pk) For Moms: A Pocketbook Full of Ways to Communicate With Dad
- 1 17 Vital Topics for Staff to Discuss with Dads (PDF Download after Purchase)
- 1 14 Vital Topics for Staff to Discuss with Moms to Increase Dad's Involvement (PDF Download after Purchase)

Price is \$451

Order at:

<https://store.fatherhood.org/bundle-home-visitation/>

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QUESTIONS??

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