

FATHER EFFECT

TODAY'S FATHERS ARE MORE INVOLVED AS CARETAKERS



preparing/eating meals, reading, talking to kids, helping with homework

WHEN FATHERS ARE INVOLVED AND NURTURING, YOUNG CHILDREN DEVELOP...



- ... better linguistic and cognitive skills
- ... increased academic readiness
- ... more emotional security
- ... better social connections with peers as they get older

WHEN PARENTS PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGE WITH CHILDREN ABOUT SCHOOL

CHILDREN HAVE HIGHER...

- ... academic achievement in reading / math
- ... reading and writing scores
- ... report card grades



PREPARATION FOR FATHERHOOD INCREASES INVOLVEMENT



Parenting education and support during pregnancy, for both parents, increases chances that children will achieve healthy developmental trajectories

Fathers engaged during pregnancy are more likely to be committed to both child and partner

Access to paid paternity leave is associated with greater engagement of fathers

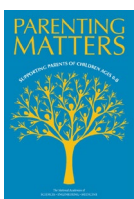
CHALLENGES



- ▶ Number of fathers living with their biological children decreasing
- ▶ Children with disengaged fathers more likely to develop behavioral problems
- ▶ Limited known effective strategies to engage and utilize the strengths of fathers
- ▶ Fathers underrepresented in research

SOLUTIONS & NEXT STEPS

- ☑ Provide incentives to increase parent participation in program services
- ☑ Involve fathers in program service development
- ☑ Offer culturally relevant programs
- ☑ Begin in pregnancy
- ☑ Engage both parents as partners with providers
- ☑ Tailor interventions to needs of parents and children
- ☑ Provide peer support
- ☑ Offer trauma-informed services when necessary



For more information on the report *Parenting Matters: Supporting Parents of Children Ages 0-8*, please visit: www.nas.edu/ParentingMatters.