

In 1992 Faith Popcorn coined a phrase for a new trend in society:



"Mancipation"

It means the freeing of men to take on new roles & goals men have not traditionally taken on.

The "mens liberation movement" had begun ...

1

Most kids with moms & dads actively involved, as compared to kids w/o involved dads, tend to:

- Do better in school
- Have a healthy gender identity
- Have clear values & moral development
- Feel more confidence relating to people
- Enjoy more success in family & work.

2

Dads offer:

- ✓ Additional love
- ✓ Another role model
- ✓ Security & resources
- ✓ Another player on the Parent Team!
- ✓ Somebody else to play with!



It is so fun to see what some dads will do for their children

3

Father absence is strongly associated with:

- ✓ High rates of school failure & drop-out
- ✓ Early sexual behavior & teen pregnancy
- ✓ Teen suicide
- ✓ Juvenile delinquency & adult criminality

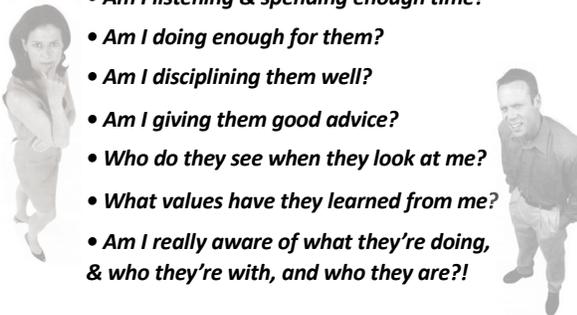
Even among youth who appear to have escaped these consequences, their longing for their father is profound.



4

Both moms & dads ask themselves:

- Am I listening & spending enough time?
- Am I doing enough for them?
- Am I disciplining them well?
- Am I giving them good advice?
- Who do they see when they look at me?
- What values have they learned from me?
- Am I really aware of what they're doing, & who they're with, and who they are?!



5

Many dads face obstacles re: involvement with kids:

- Stereotype: Fathers don't take time off from work for kids
- Stereotype: It's mom's responsibility
- Father's lack of self confidence
- Gate-keeping by mom
- Employers make it difficult for dads (moms too) to take time off for parenting role, even when kids are sick!
- Inappropriate program design & delivery



6

Birth to Five Father Engagement Guide
(from the "Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework")

- ❖ Creating father-friendly environments that are welcoming and comfortable.
- ❖ Forming fathers groups that plan activities & build support networks.
- ❖ Training staff to implement parenting curriculum that develops the knowledge and skills of fathers.
- ❖ Investing in professional development to strengthen staff skills and practices with fathers.
- ❖ Including fathers in parent-teacher conferences and home visits.
- ❖ Designing recruitment materials that appeal to fathers.
- ❖ Collaborating with community partners to align and reinforce strategies that respond to fathers' strengths, interests and needs.

7

❖ Possible goals/outcomes for fathers:

- ❖ Attend parent-teacher conferences and other parent meetings.
- ❖ Volunteer to help with activities for the children at your center.
- ❖ Spend more quality time with their child.
- ❖ Improve their relationship with the child's mother or co-parent.
- ❖ Improve health literacy/practices.
- ❖ Participate in a parenting course.
- ❖ Participate in a fathers' support group.
- ❖ Finish high school or get job training to increase the economic stability of the family.

8

Leverage a key asset of your Head Start program: Home Visits!

- ❖ Arrange at a time when both dad and mom will be there.
- ❖ Communicate the expectation that dads involvement is vital to the child's success -- verbally, in direct written communication to both parents, and the materials and visuals in your Center.
- ❖ ASK dads how you can support them and what activities they would like to be involved in. *(Note: What works for moms doesn't always work the same for dads. In general, most moms like to talk about things, and in general most dads prefer to DO things without having to talk a lot.)*
- ❖ Follow-up with a few activities that are responsive to what dads request, start small and think big, and work with who attends and participates. Be realistic, patient and persistent! You will make a positive difference to many fathers and their kids!

9

First – don't "settle" for the current "status quo." Commit to do the work, and one dad at a time you're also improving the lives of their children and families.

Second – don't stop. The next fathers & mothers are being "born" every day too; all dads & moms need the chance to learn how to be the best parent they can be!

Here are some resources available re: "Father Involvement":

"Head Start Parent, Family and Community Engagement Framework"
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/parent-family-community-engagement-pfce-framework>

Head Start Fatherhood Initiative
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/family-engagement/article/engaging-fathers-male-caregivers>

People in this room and at this conference – Network/ask for peoples' ideas, lessons learned, & contact info for future communication.

Your State and National Head Start Associations, & Region 8 Head Start Office, Denver, CO. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/oro/regional-offices/region8>

10

I offer two variations of this workshop for local Head Start programs to help more dads and moms learn and grow in their important roles as as their child's first and most important teachers: (both programs 75-90 minutes)

For Dads: "The Fun & Frenzy of Fatherhood"

Description: As a father, is it more frenzy than fun? Get frustrated sometimes over the different ways you and your partner approach parenting and interact with your child? This workshop explores the unique and important contributions fathers bring to your children, understand the nature of obstacles that make it difficult for many dads to get involved, as well as help dads find ways to get more involved with your kids, improve communication and teamwork with your spouse/partner, help your kids succeed in school, and raise kids with positive self-esteem.

For Dads & Moms: "The Pits & Pleasures of Parenting"

Description: This program reminds us that the journey as a parent is a package deal – it includes both the pits and perils of parenting, as well as the pleasures and payoffs. And dads and moms approach parent differently. So, let's review ways to reframe what could be perceived as "Conflicting" parenting styles into complementary styles, and help dads and moms improve their communication and teamwork and succeed in your journey through the "Pits & Pleasures of Parenting."

11

Activity:

List 2 ways dads make a difference to their kids:

List 2 key challenges many dads must overcome:

List 2 ways you are currently helping dads to get more involved with their kids:

List 2 new ways you can encourage dads to get more involved with their kids:

12