Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative:

Fathers Engaged and Empowered to Learn

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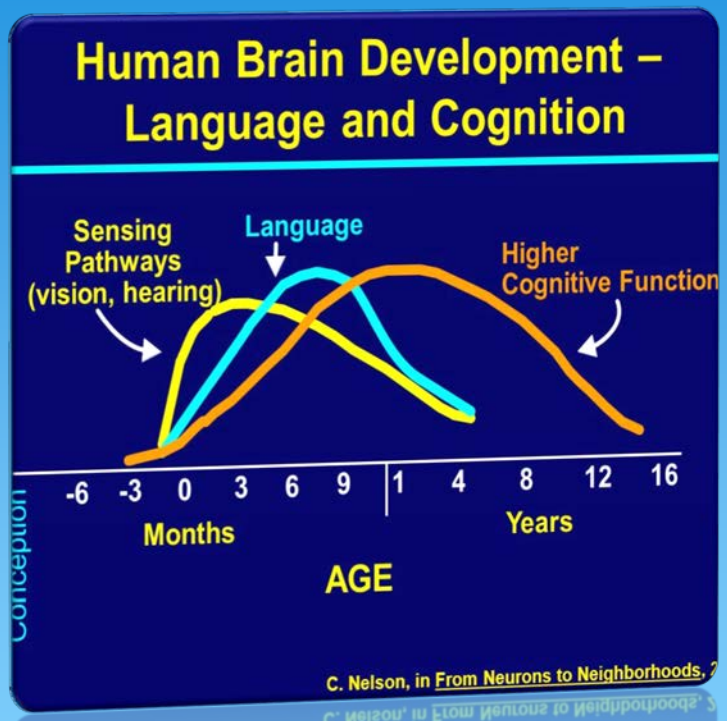

Brain Development

- Early Experience
- Environment
- Relationships

Even from birth, children who have an involved father are more likely to be:

- Emotionally secure
- Be confident to explore their surroundings
- As they grow older, have better social connections.

Arkansas Fatherhood and Family Initiative

Purpose:

To Create a Statewide Fatherhood Task Force identifying ways to engage fathers in the early childhood education of their children. The Task Force will identify resources and activities to improve fatherhood engagement in the state of Arkansas.

“High 5 DADS”

This initiative “High 5 DADS” involved professionals of local fraternities, public safety officers, church members, and other professionals dedicated their time going to selected schools in Pulaski and Jefferson County on the 1st day of school to shake hands/fist bump/greet young elementary students in an ongoing effort to support, motivate, and encourage a positive school year and beyond the school day.

It is vital in our communities that young people, ages 0 to 8 have positive role models locally that can provide motivation and encouragement to continue on a path of good behavior, good choices and good self esteem.

High 5 Dads

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bm5drOREPIs

Arkansas Fatherhood Mentoring Program

* Selected mentors across the state who demonstrate strong skills and the abilities to provide support and strength for each individual fathers who participate
* Over 70 teens are currently engaged and are participating in this initiative.
* Arkansas selected counties with the highest Teen pregnancy rates
* Participating School Districts are: Fort Smith, Blytheville, Little Rock Central High School, Texarkana, and Helena West Helena.
* 14 sessions, whereby mentors will go into the school districts twice per month to work with young high school fathers.

Teen Graduation

READ!!!

EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTIVITY:
READ
FOR 30 MINUTES TODAY.
STRONG FATHERS STRONG FAMILIES

Fatherhood Event

reading on the carpet event

FREE to the public

Saturday, February 24, 2018

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Park Plaza Mall
6000 W Markham St
Little Rock, AR 72205

DOOR PRIZES!

Each child who hears a story from their dad receives a book and bear (while supplies last)!

Contact: Jackie Govan at the Head Start State Collaboration Office, 501.371.0740

As a part of the Statewide Fatherhood Initiative, the HSSCO and AETN invite dads and their children to participate in a fun, casual reading event! Research shows that fathers have the capacity for caregiving, and children benefit directly from dads' parenting contributions. Findings from the science of early childhood and early brain development show the positive, lifelong impact fathers can have by being engaged early in their children's lives.

AETN

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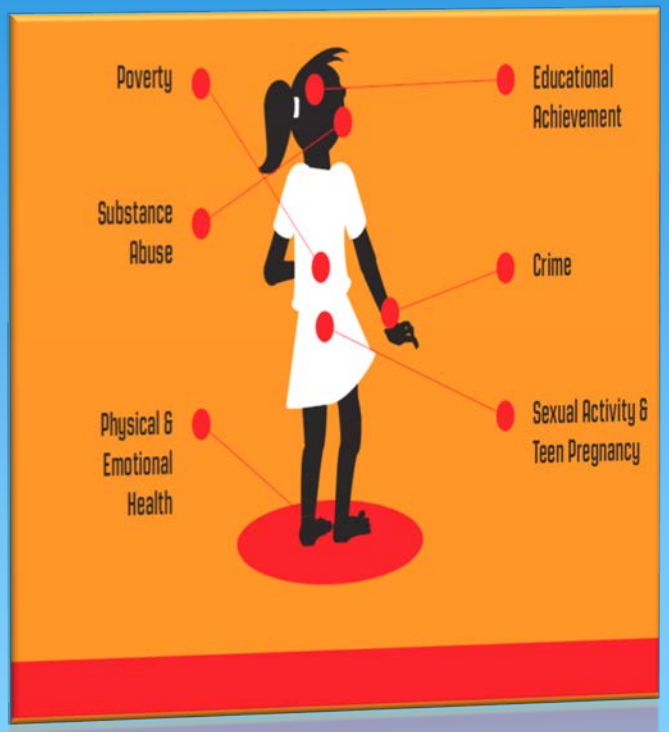
Promoting literacy

Kids who are read to by Dad, according to a study by Harvard University researchers, have better-developed language skills than kids who were read to by just Mom.

Father's Influence

- POVERTY & SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH
- EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
- CRIME AND TEENAGE PREGNACY

POVERTY & SUBSTANCE ABUSE



- Fatherless families are 44% more likely to raise children living in poverty.
- 4X more likely to be raised in poverty.
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are fatherless.
- 10x more likely to abuse chemical substances.
- 71% of all adolescent substance abusers come from a fatherless home.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2011, Table C8. Washington D.C.: 2011

PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

- 80% of adolescents in psychiatric hospitals come from fatherless homes
- 2X more likely to commit suicide
- Fatherless children experience higher rates of chronic asthma, headaches, and speech defects

Source: Irwin Sandler, PhD, professor of psychology and director of the Prevention Research Center, Arizona State University, Tempe

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

- Fatherless children have more trouble academically, scoring poorly on tests of reading, mathematics, and thinking skills
- 9x more likely to drop out of school and less likely to attain academic and professional qualifications in adulthood
- Research from the University of Pennsylvania indicates that children who feel a closeness and warmth with their father are twice as likely to enter college, 75 percent less likely to have a child in their teen years, 80 percent less likely to be incarcerated and half as likely to show various signs of depression.

Source: Edward Kruk, Ph.D., "The Vital Importance of Paternal Presence in Children's Lives." May 23, 2012

CRIME AND TEENAGE PREGNACY

- 70% of adolescents in juvenile correctional facilities come from fatherless homes
- 11x more likely to have violent behavior
- 9x more likely to be raped or sexually abused in a home without a biological father
- 70% of teen pregnancies happen in fatherless homes.

Cornell, Dewey et al. "Characteristics of Adolescents Charged with Homicide." Behavioral Sciences and the Law 5 (1987): 11-23.

Children from Fatherless Homes are:

* 5 times more likely to commit suicide.
* 32 times more likely to run away.
* 20 times more likely to have behavioral disorders.
* 14 times more likely to commit rape.
* 9 times more likely to drop out of school.
* 10 times more likely to abuse chemical substances.
* 9 times more likely to end up in a state operated institution.
* 20 times more likely to end up in prison.

COLLABORATIONS

Arkansas Head Start-
State Collaboration Office

helping children soar
PROJECT LAUNCH
ARKANSAS

Project PLAY
Positive Learning for Arkansas' Youngest

Division of Child Care and
Early Childhood Education

RESOURCES

www.arheadstart.org

Facebook: facebook.com/arkansasfatherhood

Twitter: twitter.com/arfatherhood

Instagram: arfatherhood

http://www.bestrongfamilies.net/build-protective-factors/parent-cafes/parent-cafe-model/

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

For More Information

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