



Why We All Need To Work With Fathers. A Multi-Agency Perspective



Introduction



- Why Should We Work With Fathers?
- Fathers & Child Development.
- Key Messages for Professionals.
- A Call to Action.
- Questions.

Why Should We Work With Fathers?



- The rights and needs of the child.
- Safeguarding.
- Increase parenting capacity.
- Capitalise on strengths.
- To address gendered-base violence.
- Improve services and outcomes to children.
- We engage and work with the paternal extended family.
- We divert children from care.

Fathers & Child Development



Research

It is now recognised that, in most cases, child centred and sensitive care giving by both parents through complimentary parenting, (where parents agree role differentiation), contributes to a wide variety of positive child outcomes.

Strengths

There is a wealth of international research which evidences that fathers provide not only a symbolic function but a unique contribution to positive developmental outcomes for children across cultures and ethnicities.

Fathers & Child Development



'Involved fathers bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is as likely to bring'.

Fathers and father figures shape child health and wellbeing. There is growing evidence to indicate fathers play a vital role in early childhood development. Father involvement undeniably influences psychological, behavioural, social, and cognitive outcomes in children.

The quality of the relationship the father has with the children's mother and whether they can develop 'a co-parenting alliance'.

Fathers, who display positive engagement with their children, such as accessibility and responsibility to participate positively impact on improved psychological and emotional regulation, social maturity, and life skills as well as more constructive child / adolescent father relationships. Research confirms that fathers play a distinct [i.e., different to mothers], and essential role in children's socialisation.

Key Messages for Professionals



- Champion fathers' engagement to change the culture.
- Identify and engage fathers as early as possible, (Mid-Wifery / Family Hub / Families First / GP).
- Continually invest in work with fathers as it will take many years to address.
- KPIs.
- Professional Development.
- Pathways, referral processes and focused gender specific information and services are available.
- Supervision. – Recognise the personal.
- Health and Safety
- Understand how violence impacts the system.

A Call to Action



- Reflect on your views and experiences, (Personal / Professional), of men and how this influences your practice.
- Senior leaders / managers adopt a long-term strategy of father inclusion.
- Include fathers in your practice, in assessments and interventions.
- Discuss fathers in supervision.
- Discuss in multi-agency meetings the identification of fathers and how you will work with him.
- Encourage conversations in your teams and organisations about father involvement.
- Reunification strategy to include a clear plan to assess fathers and paternal extended families.
- FGCs to divert children from care through earlier engagement of fathers.

Questions

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