



North Carolina Parent Information and Resource Center Parent Partners E-PIC December 2007

Research shows that fathers, no matter their income or cultural background, can play a critical role in their child's education. When fathers are involved children learn more, perform better in school and exhibit healthier behavior.

What are some tips and strategies that you can use to improve fathers' involvement in education?

1. Communicate with fathers
 - Encourage all fathers whether they are in two-parent families or single-parent families, or are nonresidential fathers to be actively involved in their children's education.
 - Provide nonresident fathers with student progress reports and other important information.
 - Provide school notices to both fathers and mothers.
2. Expect fathers' involvement
 - Ask explicitly for the father's name, address and phone numbers on enrollment forms.
 - Expect both parents to attend school meetings if possible.
 - Make fathers aware that there are alternatives to volunteering at the school.
3. Create a father friendly environment
 - Greet fathers by name when they attend school events and tell them how glad you are to see them.
 - Recognize children's progress and share the good news with fathers.
 - Reinforce fathers' contributions to their children's education.
 - Develop father-to-father strategies and programs that encourage older fathers to mentor younger fathers.
 - Include fathers when discussing children at parent-teacher conferences.
 - Display positive images of fathers on posters, photos and drawings in classrooms and hallways.
 - Ask fathers how they would like to contribute to their child's school.

Here are some helpful Internet websites that you can use to find more information on fathers.

National Center for Fathering www.fathers.com
National Fatherhood Initiative www.fatherhood.org
National Fathers' Network www.fathersnetwork.org
National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute www.nlffi.org

As you prepare to involve fathers in your schools, please consider our ***Just for Dads*** workshop available to you free of charge. To schedule our workshop, please call Parent Partners at 704-892-1321 or our toll-free parent line at 1-800-962-6817 and ask for Rita at extension 39. You may also email us at parentpartners@ecacmail.org. We look forward to hearing from you soon!