

# GETTING DADS OFF *the* SIDELINES: ENGAGING *and* ENHANCING FATHER INVOLVEMENT *in* FAMILIES

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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Fathers must be involved in program/system change
- Increase in child support payments does not equal successful parenting
- Cross-program and sector collaboration is needed to align resources
- Teaching skill like praise and then applying in soccer game. Dad assigned a task using the skills each quarter of the game
- Dads want to participate in treatment with their kid(s)
- We need to look @ how every policy & program model differentially engages and impacts moms vs. dads
- Dads prefer skill-based, hands-on learning
- Father involvement inspired academic achievement:
  - Greater language development
  - Greater emotional regulation
  - Greater focused attention
  - Less mother-reported behavior concerns
- Have to be more intentional and strategic about how we engage fathers
- Fathers matter in families. It was great to see a session on the importance of fathers in framing development
- Combining sports and parent education can be a successful intervention
- Find and use language that is inclusive of fatherhood and father caretaking
- Remember to train the frontline on the fundamental attributes of all dads in how all dads share some strengths and challenges
- What does "caretaking" look like for dads? Acknowledge benefits of involvement of non-primary caretaker
- Insights: We may be able to coordinate engaging fathers with new spouse income law
- How do staff feel about engaging dads?
- Remembering dad's in the program design of ALL initiatives
- We must consciously invite dads to the table to talk about kids
- There is compelling data about the importance of dad's role
- Use of engaged problem-solving approach for dads (and power of sports!) and associated non-"deficient" stigmatized approached