



DIGITAL DIALOGUE

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The X-Y Factor: Engaging Dads Using the Protective Factors



*Join the National
Conversation
on Child Abuse
and Neglect*



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NFI's Mission & Vision

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Our Mission

National Fatherhood Initiative's (NFI) mission is to **transform** organizations and communities by **equipping** them to **intentionally** and **proactively** engage fathers in their children's lives.

Our Vision

National Fatherhood Initiative's vision is for every child to grow up with an involved, responsible, and committed father.

NFI's 3E Strategy

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- **Educate:** NFI educates and inspires all Americans, especially fathers, through social media, earned media, research, and free resources and services.
- **Equip:** NFI equips organizations and communities with fatherhood programs and resources, and through training, planning, and technical assistance services.
- **Engage:** NFI engages organizations and communities to mobilize at the micro- and macro-level to increase father involvement in children's lives.

Strengthening Families: Five Protective Factors

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Parental Resilience



Social Connections



Knowledge of Parenting
and Child Development



Concrete Support in Times
of Need



Social and Emotional
Competence of Children



Risky or Unfinished Business?

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Parental Resilience

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- Key to building is addressing developmental history, psychological resources, empathy
- Pro-social connections help build
- Unique developmental needs and trajectory (e.g. masculinity)
- Create positive attachments between fathers, children, and other adults (e.g. mothers and other fathers)

Resilience



Social Connections

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- Key to building are social networks of support
- Connecting fathers with other fathers and parents and increasing relationship skills helps build
- Fathers raised to focus on material exchange in social networks, not emotional and spiritual support
- Create connections among fathers and between fathers and the community



Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development

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- Key to building are learning appropriate parenting and increased knowledge of developmental milestones
- Fathers **not** raised to raise children
- Often starting from scratch with fathers
- Create involved fathers from moment children born—even prenatally

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES



Concrete Support in Times of Need

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- Key to building is willingness to seek support
- Connecting most vulnerable families to sources of support (e.g. financial, housing, education, substance abuse, and domestic violence).
- Fathers **not** raised to seek support—see support seeking as weakness
- Create willingness to seek support for overall family stability and dealing with crises as “temporary help”



Social & Emotional Competence

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- Key to building is quality of child's relationship with parents
- Connecting fathers with their children to reduce risk of father absence helps build
- Fathers make **unique** contribution to social and emotional development
- Use programs and resources that create high quality father-child and mother-father relationships



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- [Father Involvement and the Five Protective Factors](#)
- National Fatherhood Initiative: <https://www.fatherhood.org/>
- National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse:
https://www.fatherhood.gov/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw5qrXBRC3ARIsAJq3bwpVZJg0WH68Pp5liwHKwEL4d_vHCWNmgYT_zODnKR7UJlG71YmuoKYaAqHrEALw_wcB
- Core Meanings of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors
<https://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/2015/Core-Meanings-of-the-SF-Protective-Factors-2015.pdf>
- Prevention Resource Guide:
https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/guide_2018.pdf
- CANTASD Topics page on Father Engagement
<https://cantasd.acf.hhs.gov/explore-topics/engaging-fathers/>

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Q&A



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