



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 macrolevel to increase father involvement in children's lives.





Strengthening Families: Five Protective Factors

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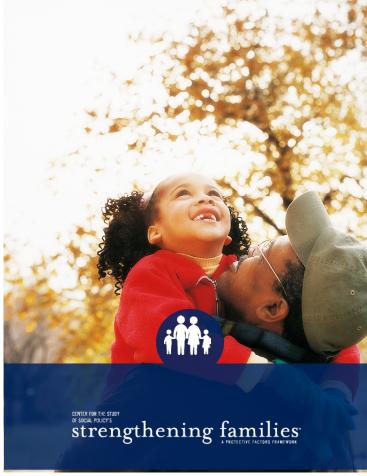








Social and Emotional Competence of Children







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















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





Resources

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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 zODnKR7UJIG71YmuoKYaAqHrEALw 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





Learn more. cantasd.acf.hhs.gov



Keep in touch!