



# Four predictors of father involvement

## Positive father involvement is good for children and families

Children benefit in many ways when their dads are involved in their lives. A positive father-child relationship is linked to better cognitive development, higher educational achievement, higher self-esteem, and pro-social behavior.<sup>1</sup>

INCREASED

## FATHER INVOLVEMENT

### Positive Coparenting Relationship

A positive coparenting relationship with their child's mother is strongly associated with both the quantity and quality of father involvement.<sup>2,3</sup>

### Financial Stability

Financial stability is linked to fathers' involvement with their children, particularly among fathers who view their role as the provider.<sup>4,5</sup>

### Reduction of Risky & Criminal Behavior

Fathers who engage in risky behaviors are less likely to spend time with their children. Employment, completion of education, and family and social supports all build resilience and promote father involvement.<sup>6</sup>

### Parenting Confidence, Knowledge, & Skills

When fathers feel competent<sup>7</sup> and believe that they can parent well,<sup>8</sup> they spend more time with their children, take on more caretaking responsibilities, and engage more positively with their children.<sup>9,10</sup>

**CHILD & FAMILY**

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

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**Sources:** (1) Rosenberg, J., & Wilcox, W. (2006). United States Department of Health and Human Services. Administration for Children and Families. Child Welfare Information Gateway. The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy Development of Children. Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S. Children's Bureau. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/fatherhood/chaptertwo.cfm>. (2) Palkovitz, R., Fagan, J., & Hull, J. (2013). Coparenting and children's well-being. In N. J. Cabrera & C. S. Tamis-LeMonda (Eds.), *Handbook of father involvement* (2nd ed., pp. 202–219). New York: Routledge. (3) Hohmann-Marriott, B. (2011). Coparenting and father involvement in married and unmarried coresident couples. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 73(1), 296–309. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00805.x> (4) Högnäs, R. S., & Williams, H. (2017). Maternal kinship involvement and father identity in fragile families. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 38(2), 249–262. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-016-9487-2> (5) Ryan, R. M., Kalil, A., & Ziol-Guest, K. M. (2008). Longitudinal patterns of non-residential fathers' involvement: The role of resources and relations. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 70(4), 962–977. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2008.00539.x> (6) Fagan, J., Palkovitz, R., Roy, K., & Farrie, D. (2009). Pathways to paternal engagement: Longitudinal effects of risk and resilience on nonresident fathers. *Developmental Psychology*, 45(5), 1389–1405. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0015210> (7) Coley, R. L., & Hernandez, D. C. (2006). Predictors of paternal involvement for resident and nonresident low-income fathers. *Developmental Psychology*, 42(6), 1041–1056. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.42.6.1041>. (8) Coleman, P. K., & Karraker, K. H. (1998). Self-efficacy and parenting quality: Findings and future applications. *Developmental Review*, 18(1), 47–85. <https://doi.org/10.1006/drev.1997.0448>. (9) Jones, T. L., & Prinz, R. J. (2005). Potential roles of parental self-efficacy in parent and child adjustment: A review. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 25(3), 341–363. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2004.12.004> (10) Shumow, L., & Lomax, R. (2002). Parental efficacy: Predictor of parenting behavior and adolescent outcomes. *Parenting*, 2(2), 127–150. [https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327922PAR0202\\_03](https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327922PAR0202_03)