

DADS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THEIR CHILDREN' S LIVES

A Fatherhood Institute summary of Research into the influence of dads on their children's development and education www.fatherhoodinstitute.org describes how a good relationship with their dad• helps children to:

- € get on well with other children
- € behave well
- € keep within the law
- € do better at school
- € feel good about themselves
- € 'tune in' to others' emotions
- € become a good dad in their turn
- € become a good sexual partner
- € feel confident and in control
- € believe in themselves

●*Birth father, or a father figure in children's lives, recognising that all children do not enjoy a relationship with 'the dad who made me'. The vast majority of non-resident birth dads realise the truth of these findings and know that they have a unique position in their children's lives.*

Children who don't see their fathers• **may:**

- € demonise or idealise them
- € blame themselves for dad's absence
- € feel distress, anger and self-doubt
- € have difficulties in getting on with other children
- € suffer as a result of the impact on their mother.

●*Non-resident fathers who have little contact or who have difficulties in maintaining their relationship with their children are very concerned about the impact of this on their children.*

Dads and their children's education: the findings (2007/8) show that 81% of non-resident dads wanted to be involved in their children's education.

Quality involvement in their children's learning by dads affects:

- € children's readiness for school
- € independence of thought and action
- € setting of high standards

Active involvement by dads in their children's education affects:

- € test results
- € educational qualifications
- € progress
- € attitudes to work
- € enjoyment of work
- € the goals a child sets
- € behaviour.

My comments: Of course, children react differently to life experiences and many overcome major problems and survive. They adapt very well and can heal from negative experiences when circumstances change for the better. We need not despair about our children if things do not go 'right'. But non-resident dads need to keep up the often very difficult struggle to maintain contact in their children's lives. They know that regaining and/or maintaining a good relationship with their children gives the children the best chance of living a health, happy and fulfilled life.

FATHERS' STORY WEEK 14-19 JUNE 2010
FATHER'S DAY 20 JUNE

Fathers' Story Week www.fathersstoryweek.org • gives an opportunity for primary schools, nurseries, pre-schools and children's centres to get fathers and children working and spending time together, in support of the children's learning and development. There are **downloadable resources** to help organisations do this and it is suggested that schools organise a

Bring Your Dad to School Day, on 18th June.

- "Supportive home environments are key to children's learning and development. Children with positively involved fathers and father figures do better in all sorts of ways.

Many fathers want to be involved with their children's education but schools, nurseries and pre-schools may find it a challenge to engage with them. Fathers' Story Week will help them to:

- € get dads more involved
- € show families that they value dad's role
- € give children learning activities focused on dads"

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Read more about 2007/8 research into the influence of fathers on their children's development and education on www.fatherhoodinstitute.org