



BENEFITS OF INVOLVED FATHERING

Children who have involved and responsive fathers benefit from the following:

- Children are much more successful academically, and have a higher likelihood of going to college (Nord, C.W. and J. West., U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2001)
- Involved dads have a positive correlation to reduced adolescent pregnancy (Robert T. Brown, MD - Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio 2005)
- Young people who have fathers actively participating in their lives are less likely to engage in criminal activities or abuse drugs and alcohol (Youth Justice Board, London: The Stationery Office, July 2002, and Harper, C. and McLanahan, S. August 1998).
- Father involvement is the strongest parent-related predictor in the development of empathy (Pruett, Kyle D., 2000).
- Involved fathering is associated with the development of problem-solving behavior and reduced sibling conflict and aggression (*Easterbrooks & Goldberg, 1984; Volling & Belsky, 1992*).
- Sons and daughters are much less likely to have traditional sex-stereotyped perceptions about male and female roles, i.e., they grow up more open-minded about what men and women are capable of doing (*Kelly, J., 2005; Pruett, 1987; Radin & Russell, 1983*).
- Direct father involvement with their premature infant results in more rapid weight gain and quicker discharges from the hospital (*Indiana Youth Institute, 2003; Levy-Shiff, Hoffman, Mogilner, et al, 1990*).
- Involved fathers lessen the burden that mothers experience in cases where moms are otherwise the exclusive caregivers to their children.
- Children with two loving, involved parents benefit from the wealth of each parent's life experiences.