



# Building Brighter Futures

## Parent Newsletter

July 2011

Issue 1

### Positive Parent Provider Relationships

#### Five strategies that promote participation by dads in Child Care.

Child care providers should take note and parents can make these requests to their child's program to help facilitate involvement by fathers. They include:



##### 1. Offer activities for both parents.

Child care providers sometimes say fathers prefer activities specifically for dads only. The study says otherwise, indicating that dads prefer to attend activities with their wives and families. These types of activities include preschool parties, PTA, volunteer position that husband and wife can do together, parenting classes, and projects.

##### 2. Schedule activities after work hours on weekdays or on weekends.

Plan according to when most working parents can indeed attend. If additional father involvement is sought, care programs and activities should be scheduled accordingly.

##### 3. Sponsor activities that teach fathers how to help their children learn.

Parenting programs that encourage the "learning" process in addition to the emotional side of child care helps to reach out to dads.

##### 4. Showcase pictures of fathers and children around the daycare, school, home and in a child's room.

This simple visual method reinforces the importance of fatherhood.



##### 5. Tell dads how much you appreciate their involvement.

Fathers should be told thank you and given support throughout the year and not just on Father's Day. Dads contribute to the financial, emotional and academic success of children, and need to be praised for their efforts.

<http://childcare.about.com/od/volunteerism/a/dadcare.htm>

**Story Time at the  
Jacksonville Resource Center  
Tuesday, July 19 @ 10 am**

Imagination Library and OCPC launch an early literacy initiative to put books in the hands of young children, helping prepare them for kindergarten. Children receive a book every month till their fifth birthday. There is no cost to the families; however, donations and sponsorships are accepted.



### Social and Emotional Development

#### **Eight Ways to Teach Good Manners**

by Julie A. Daymut, M.A., CCC-

- 1. Model good behavior.** Use good manners with your children and when you interact with others. Let your children see you show respect through your actions, such as holding the door, covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough, and throwing away trash.
- 2. Teach "polite" words.** Teach your children polite words like "No thank you," "I'm sorry," and "May I?" Explain what the words mean and when to use them.
- 3. Watch children's TV programs or movies.** Many children's TV shows or movies teach good behavior. Watch these shows with your children and talk about the characters' good manners. As well, children often want to be like their favorite TV or movie characters, so ask them to imitate the good manners they see.
- 4. Role-play good manners for different situations.** Practice the types of good manners you want your children to use in different situations like going to a friend's birthday party, having family over for dinner, or meeting a new neighbor. Have them practice what to say and how to act.
- 5. Read books about good manners.** Many children's books teach good manners. The characters in the stories show good manners or learn to show good manners. Find these books at the library or a bookstore, and then read them together.
- 6. Praise your children when they use good manners.** Acknowledge when your children use good manners. Tell them you like the way they are behaving or the way they said something. This positive reinforcement will encourage the behavior to happen again.
- 7. Give replacement behaviors.** One of the best ways to know good manners is to know what behaviors are not appropriate. When your children say or do something impolite, explain why those are not good manners. Then explain what to say or do instead in order to show good manners.
- 8. Make rules and stick to them!** Set expectations for good manners. Being consistent about good manners is important. Start teaching manners when your children are very young—even toddlers can begin to learn good manners.