

Dads are IMPORTANT!!!

Research shows a direct correlation between parent involvement and how well children do in school. But, when we think of parental involvement, we quite often only think about a Mother's involvement. Not surprisingly, research shows great benefits to children when their fathers are involved too. According to researcher Brent A. McBride from the University of Illinois, the benefits from father involvement happen whether the dad is married, single, a stepfather, an adoptive father, or whether he lives with his children or not. And children who do not have a father figure at home, benefit from having other kid's dads at school. When Dad's are involved, we see these differences in children:

- They do better in school and enjoy school more (especially boys).
- They are half as likely to ever repeat a grade (7% vs. 15% for children of less- involved dads).
- They have less behavior problems and are less likely to be suspended (10% vs.18% for students of less-involved Dads.)
- They have better cognitive and psychosocial development.
- They complete more years of school.
- They are more likely to be involved in extracurricular activities, which often results in less behavior problems and drug or alcohol use.
- They are less likely drink, use drugs, and initiate sex.
- They have the skills to take initiative and control of their lives.
- They experience less poverty.
- They are more inclined to grow up to be more responsible adults, be better problem solvers, be more confident, and are more likely to have solid marriages.
- Most importantly, the message that a parent cares and values education is given!

Dads benefit by:

- Being more involved in home life.
- Learning a lot of great facts and ideas
- Feeling more important in their child's lives.
- Being a part of the community.

It is time to shatter the traditional thought that unless it is sports related, volunteering at school is a women's job

The resource for this article are Armin Brott, an author of six best selling books on fatherhood. And www. <http://wvde.state.wv.us/ose/PTAConference>.

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