

Learning Through Play

How can a father contribute to his child's growth and development while playing with a ball? Keep the domains of development in mind. Write your answers in chat.

	CENTRAL DOMAINS				
	APPROACHES TO LEARNING	SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	COGNITION	PERCEPTUAL, MOTOR, AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
▲ INFANT/TODDLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication	Cognition	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
● PRESCHOOLER DOMAINS	Approaches to Learning	Social and Emotional Development	Language and Communication Literacy	Mathematics Development Scientific Reasoning	Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

- **Approaches to Learning** focuses on how children learn; the skills and behaviors that children use to engage in learning
- **Social development** refers to a child's ability to create and sustain meaningful relationships with adults and other children. **Emotional development** refers to a child's ability to express, recognize, and manage their own emotions as well as respond appropriately to others' emotions
- **Language and literacy development** refers to emerging abilities in listening, understanding, and using language.
- **Cognitive development** includes reasoning, memory, problem-solving, and thinking skills that help young children understand and organize their world. For preschoolers, this evolves into complex mathematical thinking and scientific reasoning.
- **Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development** is foundational to children's learning in all areas because it permits children to fully explore and function in their environment.



Engaging Fathers in their Children's Learning and Development

June 22, 2017

Fatherhood Connection Series

Meet the Presenters



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Learning Objectives

- Recognize the value of engaged fathers in children's school readiness and overall learning and development
- Apply strategies to partner with fathers to engage with their children and to support their learning and development
- Learn strategies and exemplary practices from fatherhood champions in the community

Chat With Us

- What does a father's engagement in his child's learning look like?
How would you describe what you see?



Strategies for Engagement

What Programs Can do to Support Fathers in the Early Years

Early Infancy



- Support caregiving activities; take advantage of routines to build relationships
 - Singing during diapering
 - Focused gaze during feeding
 - Supporting breastfeeding mothers
 - Hold your baby

“... He slept for days and I didn't know he had eyeballs or what -- ... [the first time I got to lay down with him] we just stared at each other for an hour and I was just blown away. I thought that was just the coolest thing, you know, I'm studying every detail of his face and he's doing the same thing back to me. ...it's just so amazing. I just spend hours thinking 'Is that my nose? Are those my ears?' “

Later Infancy



- Talk to them
 - Share observations of your environment
 - Introduce new words and ways of using them
- Practice motor skills (standing, jumping, kicking)
- Read books, tell stories
- Let your child lead the interaction

One perfect spring day as I sat on my deck, I looked up from the book I was reading to see my daughter, then 2 1/2, nose-to-nose with the daffodils in our garden. Bending from one flower to another, she gave each of them a gentle kiss. Swamped with love and pride that I had produced such a sweet and tender child, I rushed to sit beside her. That's when she calmly turned, looked me straight in the eye, and said, "Go away, I don't want you here. I want Daddy."

- Margery D. Rosen, "Pushing Your Buttons"

Toddlerhood



- Play, play, play . . . and discovery
- Encourage exploration (toys, food)
- Be prepared to be imitated

Preschool



- Support academic development
- Allow fathers to “drop in” to the classroom
- Describe how any activity can present a learning opportunity

Closing Thoughts

- Follow the father's lead
- Leave judgment aside
- Enjoy your child; feel comfortable; show love
- Be playful
- Mothers and fathers are BOTH important in early years

Head Start Father Engagement Birth to Five Programming Guide



- <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/docs/father-engage-programming.pdf>

Next Steps



Survey and Certificates

- Give us your feedback, get a certificate!



Let's Stay Connected

- Stay on until **4:15 pm EDT** to continue chat discussions with the presenters
- Become a Fatherhood Champion! Contact David Jones for details



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<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family>