



Advice to you from Other Dads...

Focus on your child.

Be teachable. Things will get easier with knowledge. Learn as much as possible - keep good notes and organize papers and records.

Communicate with your attorney and caseworker.

Identify community programs and use them.

Control yourself and your stress. You can't control other people or the situation – only how you respond to challenges. Be assertively “kind”.

Find someone to talk to – a friend, pastor or a professional. Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust.

Take care of yourself.

Focus on the positive. It may be hard but finding something good about each day will lower your stress.

Trying to do it all at once is overwhelming. Focus first on the most important or easiest task. You will feel accomplishment by getting it done.

Don't be too hard on yourself for mistakes that you may have made.

Believe in yourself.



KIDS NEED DADS



Pennsylvania endorses the positive involvement of fathers and paternal families to protect children, promote strong families, promote child well-being, and provide timely permanency for children.

SOURCES AND CITATIONS

U.S. Department of Education 1996, National Household Education Survey (NHES): Parent and Family Involvement on Education, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Fatherhood Initiative Web Site (<https://hhs.fatherhood.gov>)

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics. Survey on Child Health. Washington, D.C. GPO, 1993.

McBride, Brent A., Sarah K. Schoppe-Sullivan, and Moon-Ho Ho. “the Mediating Role of Father’s School Involvement on Student Achievement.” Applied Developmental Psychology 26 (2005).

Bringing Back The Dads. New Day Services for Children & Families, Fort Worth, TX.



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YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

Be involved in your child's life and make education, medical and health decisions regarding your child.

The same rights as the mother of your child.

Visit your child.

Ask the Court to give you custody of your child.

A lawyer even if you cannot afford one.

Receive notice of, attend and participate in all court hearings, including a hearing where the agency is asking for your parental rights to be terminated.

Be involved with planning for your child with the child welfare agency.

Be notified by the child welfare agency about any decisions made on behalf of your child.

Participate in all hearings involving your child even if you are incarcerated.



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Showing love to your child.

Talking to your child.

Being a role model for your child.

Respecting your child's mother.

Teaching your child.

Being patient with your child.

Being supportive, showing interest and giving praise to your child.

Attending doctor and dentist appointments, parent/teacher conferences, school activities, athletic events, and other meetings and conferences concerning your child.

Attending all court hearings.

Providing financial support for your child.



YOUR INVOLVEMENT:

Increases chances for your child's academic success.

Provides your child with better physical, mental and emotional security.

Reduces your child's chances of out of home dependent and delinquent placements or being incarcerated as an adult.

Helps your child learn how to solve problems and build social skills.

Provides your child a positive role model.

Lowers your child's chances for youth suicide.

Lets your child know that you love him/her.

Helps your child's self-esteem.

