

# Being Father-Friendly


## Assessing how we involve fathers within our organizations and practices

In each of the following themes, check (✓) the appropriate category. Please place a check mark in the N/A category if the theme does NOT apply to your program or organization.

QUESTIONS	YES	NO	N/A
<b>THEME 1 – COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS</b>			
1.1 Written announcements are addressed to mothers and to fathers			
1.2 Verbal notices are given to fathers as well as to mothers			
1.3 If the father is not living in the home, verbal and/or written announcements are given and/or sent directly to him			
<b>Total (3)</b>			
<b>THEME 2 – GREETING OF PARENTS AND ORGANIZATION'S PREMISES</b>			
2.1 Our premises are as comfortable for fathers as they are for mothers (magazines, posters etc...)			
2.2 Our staff addresses the father as well as the mother when parents visit our premises			
2.3 Our files contain contact information for both mothers and fathers			
<b>Total (3)</b>			
<b>THEME 3 – HOME VISITS</b>			
3.1 Home visits are scheduled at a time when both parents are at home			
3.2 If the father does not live in the home, we inquire about the presence of a significant male figure in the child's life			
3.3 When the father is present, we address comments to both parents			
3.4 If parents are not living together, we regularly verify the telephone number and address of the father so we can reach him directly			
<b>Total (4)</b>			
<b>THEME 4 – INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP MEETINGS WITH PARENTS</b>			
4.1 Fathers regularly attend scheduled parent meetings (including such activities as vaccination clinics etc.)			
4.2 We make every possible effort to include fathers in all activities concerning their children, such as: assessment, problem solving, resource allocation ...			
4.3 We schedule activities which generate parents' discussions concerning parents' roles and relationships			
4.4 During parents' meetings and events, I solicit and count on fathers' participation			
4.5 Fathers regularly attend parents' meetings			
4.6 When follow-up actions are required, I involve both parents			
<b>Total (6)</b>			

### Simcoe County Fathering Involvement Group

(Ontario Early Years, Catholic Family Life,  
The Children's Aid Society of the County of  
Simcoe, Barrie Community Health Centre and  
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit)



QUESTIONS	YES	NO	N/A
<b>THEME 5 – INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP MEETINGS WITH FATHERS</b>			
5.1 We sponsor specific father activities: support groups, self- development, skill training ...			
5.2 We hold father and child activities: games, outings, workshops...			
5.3 We regularly test new father activities			
5.4 In our activities with fathers, we attempt to address all parenting skills (communication, care giving, play, soothing, organization...)			
5.5 When fathers are not participating in our events, we try to find out why			
5.6 We continually assess our activities with fathers			
<b>Total (6)</b>			
<b>THEME 6 – SPECIAL EVENTS (CELEBRATIONS, OUTINGS...)</b>			
6.1 Both parents are requested to participate in special family events			
6.2 Fathers are requested to participate and to accompany children during special children activities and outings			
6.3 When special events are planned, fathers are requested to contribute in one way or other			
6.4 We hold special events for and with fathers (father's day, contest...)			
<b>Total (4)</b>			
<b>THEME 7 – THE FATHER'S PLACE IN MY PROGRAM OR ORGANIZATION</b>			
7.1 In my program or organization fathers are prioritized			
7.2 I see more and more fathers on my program's or my organization's premises			
7.3 Fathers are a part of my client group			
7.4 Policies and practices in my program or my organization prescribe the inclusion of fathers in family intervention initiatives			
7.5 In my program or my organization the approach to reach fathers differs from the approach to reach mothers			
7.6 In my program or my organization I have access to specific information concerning fathers			
7.7 In my program or my organization when we have questions concerning fathers, we can address them to a male representative			
7.8 In my program or my organization specific individuals are assigned to address father involvement issues			
7.9 My department or my organization provides support to professionals who want to address father involvement issues			
7.10 Fathers take an active part in the decision making in my program or organization			
7.11 My program or my organization actively seeks fathers' involvement in decision making			
<b>Total (11)</b>			
<b>WHAT IS YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SCORE: _____ / _____</b> (number of YES answers / number of questions applicable to your organization or program)			

Questionnaire inspired by the Male Involvement Profile published by Scholastic in 1993 in the book entitled Getting Men Involved: Strategies for Early Childhood Programs, authored by James A. Levine, Dennis T. Murphy and Sherrill Wilson.

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