

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Top tips: Fathers in focus

**A child's earliest years are one of the most significant developmental periods in a child's life. Where fathers and mothers engage with their child's development from birth, this can have a direct positive link to the child's future economic well-being, their health, educational attainment and relationships in adulthood.**

**Our top tips provide practical considerations for including fathers into the setting:**

1. Family dynamics are unique. Ensure you get to know your families, so you can consider how to include and support their individual needs
2. Use a staff meeting to discuss the importance of father's involvement and share strategies for encouraging more involvement and engagement
3. Greet fathers with enthusiasm and warmth and make them feel respected and valued as active participants in their children's lives
4. Talk to your established fathers and ask their views about how welcome they felt on joining. What might have made them feel more included in the setting? Could they suggest any further support that they would have liked to access?
5. Walk around your setting and consider where fathers are reflected, for example, do you have posters of positive male role models or books and stories that include fathers?
6. When planning events, consider which times most fathers are able to attend
7. Develop parent networks and buddies, particularly for stay-at-home dads who may have limited social support
8. Ask fathers for input on activity ideas that you are planning for family events, so you find out what their interests are and what they find engaging
9. Create events such as a Fathers Club or Dads Day, enabling fathers to engage in activities with their child in the nursery, ask questions about their child's development and talk and spend time with other fathers, supported by practitioners
10. Make sure to include fathers who are separated from their child and other significant males in the child's family.



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## **NDNA products to support you with these tips**

Free online course: [Home Learning Environment](#)

Blog: [A Q&A with Elliott Rae](#)

Publication: [Your essential guide to: Supporting the home learning environment](#)

**And more resources at [www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna](http://www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna)**