

What Is A Good Father?

Good fathers respect their children's mother. When parents respect each other, children are more likely to feel secure and accepted.

- **Good fathers spend time with their children.** You don't need a lot of money to spend quality time with your children. Take time each week just to "hang out" with them.

Good fathers listen. Take the time to really listen to your children's ideas, problems, and concerns.

- **Good fathers show affection.** Show and tell your children every day that you love them.

- **Good fathers support their children financially.** If you don't live with your children, be sure to pay child support regularly and on time.

Good fathers are teachers. You don't have to have a lot of education to teach your children right from wrong, to do their best, and to make good choices.

Good fathers are role models. Show your children how to be honest, responsible, and humble.

- **Good fathers read to their children.** Turn off the TV and read to your children at least 15 minutes every day. Begin when they are very young.

- **Good fathers discipline with love.** Good discipline teaches children how to enjoy them-

selves. Provide guidance to your children and set reasonable limits. Discipline should be administered in a calm, consistent, and fair manner.

Good fathers keep their cool. Every parent gets mad sometimes, but ranting, raving, and ridiculing are not good ways for children to learn self-control and to develop good self-esteem.

Good fathers are involved at school. Visit your child's school, attend parent-teacher conferences, and go to school functions.

Good fathers work hard to make their marriages last. On every imaginable measure of child well-being, children do best within the context of an intact, two-parent household.

Fathers play a unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of their children. Even if they do not live within the same home as their children, fathers should be an important presence in their children's lives. **Dads do matter!**



Success By 6 is a division of the Family Support Council, Inc., a United Way Agency, Dalton, Georgia. For more information on any of the services at the Family Support Council, call 706-272-7919.



The following statistics indicate how important it is for fathers to be an active participant in their children's lives.

- Fatherless children are 100 to 200% more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems according to the National Center on Health Statistics.
- Fatherless sons are 300% more likely to be incarcerated in state juvenile institutions.
- Fatherless daughters are 164% more likely to give birth to an illegitimate child.
- 71% of all high school drop-outs come from fatherless homes.
- 71% of pregnant teens are from fatherless homes.
- Fatherless daughters are 92% more likely to fail in their own marriages.
- Fatherless men are 35% more likely to experience marital failure.
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes.
- 75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers are from fatherless homes.
- Children from father absent homes make up 63% of youth suicides.
- 85% of children who exhibit anti-social behavior disorders are from fatherless homes.
- 72% of adolescent murderers grew up in fatherless homes.
- Fatherless sons are more than twice as likely to engage in some kind of criminal activity.
- Fatherless daughters are 53% more likely to get married in their teenage years.
- Fatherless young adults are twice as likely to need psychological help.
- More than 70% of all juveniles in state reform institutions come from fatherless homes.

Dads

