

# Beyond the Day: Engaging Fathers in Education All Year



## Ideas for Engaging Dads\* at School

- 1 Invite and encourage fathers to participate in **school's parent organization** such as PTA, PTO, or other parent group.
- 2 Create a weekly sign-up for dads to come **read a book or share a story** in the classroom.
- 3 Host a **lunch-n-learn** for dads and children to learn supports for homework, learning skills, or community resources.
- 4 Have a **bicycle day**. Invite a local bike shop to teach dads and children bike safety, check bicycles, and do a short ride.
- 5 Plan a **field trip** and ask dads to chaperone, i.e. behind the scenes tour of a local business, airport, manufacturing plant, etc.
- 6 Invite dads to share their talents or **hobbies** in the classroom, i.e. drawing, computer skills, photography, gardening, robotics, etc.
- 7 Plan a **father-daughter dance** to help fathers bond with their daughters.
- 8 Start a **breakfast buddies** program where **fathers and male mentors** eat breakfast with their child/mentee.
- 9 Start a **school men's group** and involve men in school projects, leadership teams, or improvement decisions.
- 10 Host a **mom's day off** while dads and children help with school clean up or beautification, i.e. landscaping or painting.
- 11 Ask for dads to help organize a **car wash**, student talent show, or holiday sing-a-long.
- 12 Organize a "**dads vs. teachers**" competition that all students can attend.
- 13 Send **notes to fathers** to invite them to upcoming events.
- 14 Recruit dads and male community members to share **careers** in the classroom, i.e. EMT, barber, or artist.
- 15 Invite dads to help with programs, stage set, lighting, or ushering for **school performances**.
- 16 Encourage fathers to volunteer as **hall or lunchroom monitors** at the school.
- 17 Host a **barbeque or chili cook-off** and have father/child teams compete.
- 18 Have children invite dads or male mentors to volunteer for **school events**, such as fall festival, auction, or field day.



## Ideas for Engaging Dads\* at Home

- 1 Encourage dads to **read or tell stories** with their children at home. Provide a chart to track daily reading time.
- 2 Teach dads to work with children on **daily routines**, i.e. getting backpack ready for school, making lunch, and setting out clothes for the next day.
- 3 Have dads spend a few minutes at **bedtime** talking with child about each other's day.
- 4 Start a **journal project** in which children write to dad a few times each week and dad writes back.
- 5 Have dads talk about a **weekend plan** with child. Let child help shape an outing, project, or game.
- 6 Encourage dads to set a daily time to check-in and help with child's **homework** by being supportive or assisting with resources for help as needed.
- 7 Have dad plan a **lunch date** with children or cook breakfast together at home.
- 8 Encourage family meal time and suggest topics for dads to discuss at the **dinner table** with children.



## Ideas for Engaging Dads\* in the Community

- 1 Suggest dads take child to the **local library** and offer information on local library programs.
- 2 Highlight dads who play or coach a **game or sport** that they enjoy with their children in a class newsletter.
- 3 Offer resources for dads to become involved in **community or faith organizations** and participate with their child in a service activity.
- 4 Suggest **family outings** to zoos, museums, concerts, sports events, or other local activities.
- 5 Provide information on after-school, evening or weekend **educational and recreational activities** such as ESOL, literacy classes, arts and crafts, or computer classes which dads and children may attend together.



*\*Inclusive of fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, foster fathers, father-figures and male role models.*