



# PEN Notes: Fact Sheet # 5

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## Dads Do Make A Difference!

### Fathers Involvement In Their Children's School,

a report released by Vice-President Al Gore and U.S. Secretary Richard W. Riley shows that when fathers are involved:

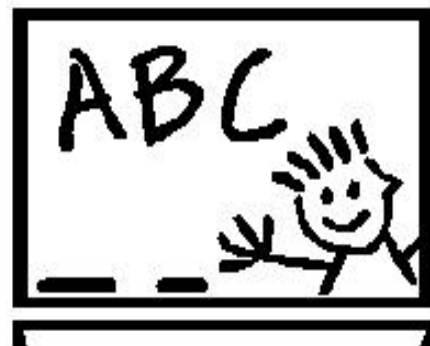
- Children are more likely to get A's and less likely to repeat grades.
- Children do better in school whether or not fathers live at home or if the mother is involved.
- Children's success is significant regardless of race, social status or father's education.

### And:

- Single fathers are more likely to be involved in their child's education than fathers in two-parent families.
- Mothers and fathers are more likely to be involved in their child's education when the schools provide a welcoming, safe and disciplined learning environment.
- Having both parents involved in their child's education greatly strengthens academic success.
- Kids feel valued when fathers tune in to their ideas and feelings.

### What schools can do to unite Children, fathers and schools

1. Make parent groups more father-friendly.
2. Hold meetings when fathers can attend and have a "dad rep" to school board meetings and district-wide events.
3. Involve grandfather and father figures to school events with special invites to them.
4. Declare "Fathers In School Day"
5. Encourage fathers to share their arts, talents and, if different, cultures and languages with the class.
6. Make sure all assigned texts, school records, and handouts avoid negative stereotypes of males.



By the end of kindergarten, your six-year old will have spent 52,000 hours outside school and 700 hours in school. Are you not your child's first and most important teacher?

## What fathers can do with Their children:

- er* Create memory keepsake boxes for letters, pictures, videos, and mementos.
- er* Take a walk together. Smell the roses and have heart to heart talks.
- er* Read books together and talk about the things you like and dislike about the books and how they relate to you.
- er* Plant a tree where you can both watch it grow.
- er* More horsey rides on the living room rug.
- er* Be available for more hairdos by daughter.
- er* And most of all keep talk, talk, talking to your child, keeping those lines of communication open between you.



## Schools can reach out to fathers in three ways through:

1. Basic orientation
2. In school programs
3. Encouragement of out of school learning activities

Girls who have positive father involvement are three times less likely to become teen moms.



### Regain father ties by:

1. Showing interest in the positive things in your son's life that you like.
2. Listening to your son tell about his interests and begin to engage in the dialogue.
3. When he discusses those items with you, pick out some of the items that are interesting to you and reinforce those things.

- ✓ Kids who team up with dads are less likely to drop out of school.
- ✓ Boys with involved dads are less likely to become unemployed, incarcerated or uninvolved in their own children's lives.
- ✓ Research shows children do better in school when their fathers encourage them, show interest in their learning at home and participate in school activities, regardless of age, IQ, social status or family income.