

BENEFITS OF ACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH CPS

- ◇ Greater likelihood for child to be reunified with biological family
- ◇ Shorter stay in out-of-home care
- ◇ Fewer episodes of placement out of the home
- ◇ Reduced trauma

The **Strengths** of **Father Presence**

Children with **involved fathers** have a **strong foundation** for child well-being.

They are at **lower risk** for a host of **poor childhood outcomes**.



- ✔ Infant Mortality
- ✔ Low Birth Weight
- ✔ Emotional and Behavioral Problems
- ✔ Neglect and Abuse
- ✔ Injury
- ✔ Obesity
- ✔ Poor School Performance
- ✔ Teen Pregnancy
- ✔ Incarceration as Juveniles
- ✔ Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- ✔ Criminal Activity
- ✔ Suicide

National
Fatherhood
Initiative
www.fatherhood.org

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative® 2019,
Father Facts: Eighth Edition, Germantown, MD:
National Fatherhood Initiative®.



REFERENCES

National Fatherhood Initiative. (2023). The statistics don't lie: Father matter. Retrieved January 25, 2023, from [Father Absence Statistics \(fatherhood.org\)](https://fatherhood.org)

U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1960 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.

Active Father/Child Engagement in the Child Welfare System



Brown County Health and Human Services
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THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING WITH YOUR CHILD

The U.S. Census Bureau (2022) reports that 18.4 million children, 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home.

Children without involved fathers are at greater risk of experiencing struggles with emotional and social well-being, struggles with school, and are more likely to experience forms of mistreatment (National Fatherhood Initiative, 2023).

The Father Absence Crisis in America

18.4

Million Children, 1 in 4, Without a Biological, Step, or Adoptive Father at Home*

Research shows² when a child is raised in a father-absent home, they are affected in the following ways...

- ⊖ 4x Greater Risk of Poverty
- ⊖ More Likely to Have Behavioral Problems
- ⊖ 2x Greater Risk of Infant Mortality
- ⊖ More Likely to Go to Prison
- ⊖ More Likely to Commit Crime
- ⊖ 7x More Likely to Become Pregnant as a Teen
- ⊖ More Likely to Face Abuse and Neglect
- ⊖ More Likely to Abuse Drugs and Alcohol
- ⊖ 2x More Likely to Suffer Obesity
- ⊖ 2x more Likely to Drop Out of School



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*U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Living arrangements of children under 18 years old: 1980 to present. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.
²National Fatherhood Initiative. (2019). Father Facts: Eighth Edition. Germantown, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative.



GET INVOLVED

Connect with your case worker to discuss how best to get involved and engage with your child.

Actively engaging with your child can look very different depending on the situation. Maintaining consistent contact with your child through visits, phone calls, and letters is a good way to start.



WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR CHILD

Before a visit with your child, plan activities you can do together:

- ◇ Read a book
- ◇ Draw or color together
- ◇ Play a board game

During phone calls with your child, you can maintain connection with them by:

- ◇ Asking how their day/school went
- ◇ Read them a story
- ◇ Ask them what they want to do for a visit

Parents that are incarcerated can also actively engage with their child by:

- ◇ Writing frequent letters
- ◇ Have phone calls or visits when able to do so
- ◇ Read or tell your child a story