



Professionals Can Promote Father Involvement

Engaging all the child's caregivers in supporting the child's participation in daily activities and routines is the best way to ensure the child has ample opportunity to practice and learn new skills and develop new interests. When fathers are routinely left out of early intervention sessions, the father and the child are at a disadvantage.

Consider the following ways to promote father engagement during and between visits.

- Observe interactions with the father figure and help identify what the child likes about the activity.
- Reflect with the father on his thoughts about what the child might like to do and strategies for how he could join in.
- Support by sharing ideas how the father figure can promote his child's development and enjoyment of the activity together.
- Provide opportunities for the father to support the child's participation in a favorite activity during the visit and make a plan with the father about how he will carry the experience between visits.
- Prompt reflection about what the child is learning from their interactions and why.