# **Strategies Logo - B&W**

# **Keys to Building Strong Relationships with Fathers**

**1. Demonstrate interest in the whole family**

a. Get contact information of fathers on all intake/enrollment forms.

b. When talking to mothers, ask also about the fathers: what do they do for a living, their work schedules, areas of concern, hobbies and interests, etc.

**2. Initiate programs and activities that appeal to fathers**

a. Have workshops on topics such as Family Economic Success, How to Write a Resume, How to Fill Out Job Applications, Job Training Resources,Affordable or Low-Income Housing Resources, How to Start a Small Business, etc.

b. Organize outdoor events, support groups and parenting classes that require the participation of fathers.

**3. Encourage mothers to make room for father involvement**

a. Help mothers to see the importance of fathers supporting their children’s development by having quality one-on-one time with them.

b. Reassure mothers that there will be adequate staffing to support fathers in activities which are father-child specific.

**4. Get to know fathers in your program and activities**

a. Make a special effort to personally greet and thank fathers who attend activities.

b. Strike up casual conversations with fathers and listen attentively.

**5. Follow up with the fathers**

a. Call fathers after an activity to get their feedback and assess their interest in further involvement in your program and activities.

b. Invite fathers for a relational visit at your center or visit them at their homes.

**6. Offer opportunities for fathers to get involved in the program’s functioning**

a. Create a list of volunteer opportunities at the center for fathers. Make sure the list covers a variety of activities, such as physical tasks, technology support and planning events and activities.

b. Recruit fathers to become members of the advisory committee or event planning committees at your center. Help them develop leadership and collaborative skills during their tenure.

**7. Value the contribution of fathers in your program and activities.**

a. Regularly and publicly praise them for their dedication, setting them as examples for other fathers.

b. Seek their feedback and take it seriously.