

“Children in the Parachute?”

*Building a Culture to Engage
Fathers*

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Genesee Intermediate School District

Family Engagement Coordinator – Head Start (present)

F.A.M.E. Fathers And Men Engaged

Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools Head Start

(1997 – 2013)

Men at W.O.R.K. Working On Relationships with Kids

Michigan Fatherhood Coalition “Practitioners Network”

Co-founder

Strategies to Engage Fathers

Changing the Culture

Staff “buy in”

Understanding the benefits for children

How Mothers and Fathers nurture their children

Understanding female staff resistance

Changing the way we do business

Strategies to Engage Fathers

Changing the Culture

Understanding the hidden fears of fathers
Low self esteem

Programs viewed as another “agency”
Engage fathers in the “intake process”
How men communicate differently

Understanding resistance by mothers
Job Corps – parenting education male perspective

Reflective supervision with staff

Strategies to Engage Fathers

Changing the Culture

Staffing trends – Female dominated profession

Listening to fathers – offer programming that is meaningful for fathers by identifying barriers.

Unemployment, Distrust of Systems, Low-Education, Health, Parenting.
Nurturing Fathers, Parenting Through Play, Health Screenings...

Give fathers “ownership” F.A.M.E. & Men at
W.O.R.K.

Strategies to Engage Fathers

Lessons Learned

Engaging fathers is not one persons job.

Do not become frustrated when things don't appear to be "successful" (culture change takes time)

Fathers are your greatest resource for recruiting fathers and keeping them engaged.

Expand your network and learn from others best practices – Michigan Fatherhood Coalition

Strategies to Engage Fathers

Building meaningful partnerships and collaborations expand services, improve programming and can influence policy

State Legislature – Michigan Responsible Fatherhood Awareness Month (February)

*Friend of the Court – Genesee County. ADAPT Program
PACT Program*

State agencies – DHS Proud Fathers/Proud Parents

*Michigan Fatherhood Policy Forum-collaboration with the
Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board*

