



LEARNINGbyte

EI Service Delivery

Collaborating with Fathers in EI



PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to build awareness of the importance of engaging fathers and facilitate reflection, discussion, and planning among EI practitioners about how they collaborate (or could improve collaboration) with fathers.



RESOURCES NEEDED

- **Webinars** - [Dads Matter! Why and How to Include Them into Routines-Based Intervention Part 1, Part 2](#)
- **Handouts** - *Dads Matter! – Part 1: 3-2-1 Notes and Action Plan*
- *Dads Matter! – Part 2: 3-2-1 Notes and Action Plan*



SPECIFIC STEPS - PART 1

1. Schedule a group meeting during which you watch Part 1 of the Dad's Matter! webinar series together. Or, email the link to the webinar and the Part 1 handout to all participants with instructions to watch the webinar before the meeting.
2. Instruct participants to use the handout to jot down a series of 3-2-1 notes including:
 - a. 3 things they learned or made them think
 - b. 2 things they have questions about
 - c. 1 thing they want to learn more about or focus more on
3. After the group has watched the webinar, invite participants to share their insights during an open discussion. Ask participants to share their 3-2-1 notes using a round robin discussion where each participant takes a turn sharing. If possible, create three lists on a flip chart, white board, or projected Word document from your computer to record participants' notes.
4. Discuss the 3-2-1 notes using the following questions:
 - a. *What interested you about this presentation? What caught your attention?*
 - b. *How often do you work with fathers during your visits?*
 - c. *What impacts whether or not fathers are participating in your visits?*
 - d. *What are you doing or could you do to collaborate with fathers?*
 - e. *What are your thoughts about the benefits and challenges of encouraging father participation?*
 - f. *How do you/have you overcome these challenges?*
5. Conclude the meeting by inviting participants to write down their action plan for the next few weeks (or until the next meeting). Encourage participants to share their action plans out loud.

SPECIFIC STEPS - PART 2

1. Schedule another group meeting during which you watch Part 2 of the Dad’s Matter! webinar series together. Or, email the link to the webinar and the Part 2 handout to all participants with instructions to watch the webinar and complete the handout before the next meeting.
2. Start this second meeting by inviting participants to complete their check-in on their action plans from the first meeting (see the Part 1 handout). Discuss successes and struggles.
3. After the group has watched the Part 2 webinar, invite participants to share their insights during an open discussion. Ask participants to share their 3-2-1 notes on the Part 2 handout using a round robin discussion where each participant takes a turn sharing:
 - a. 3 things they learned or 3 things that made them think
 - b. 2 strategies they want to try
 - c. 1 thing they want to do differently or 1 thing your program do differently to engage fathers
4. If possible, create three lists on a flip chart, white board, or projected Word document from your computer to record participants’ notes. Compare these notes with the notes you took during the last discussion about the Part 1 webinar. Note any common themes.
5. Discuss the 3-2-1 notes using the following questions:
 - a. *What interested you about this presentation? What caught your attention?*
 - b. *What have you noticed about your work with dads since our last meeting?*
 - c. *What strategies are you using now to engage and collaborate with fathers?*
 - d. *What strategies did you learn about in the webinar that you want to try?*
 - e. *What ideas do you have for overcoming challenges with engaging fathers during and between visits?*
 - f. *How can our program be more inclusive of fathers during EI visits? When communicating with the family? Throughout the EI process?*
6. Share some of the resources below to deepen or continue the discussion about how to engage fathers.
7. Conclude the meeting by inviting participants to write down another action plan on the Part 2 handout for the next few weeks (or until the next meeting). Encourage participants to share their action plans out loud.
8. Follow up with participants and ask them to complete the Part 2 action plan check-in at a future meeting or by email.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Webpage:

[Engaging Fathers](#)

Head Start/Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

Online Module:

[Engaging Fathers in their Children’s Lives](#)

Early Impact VA

Dads Matter! – Part 1

3-2-1 Notes and Action Plan

After watching the Part 1 webinar, jot down some notes about your insights using a 3-2-1 approach:

3 Things You Learned or 3 Things that Made You Think

2 Things You Have Questions About

1 Thing You Want to Learn More About or Focus More On

YOUR ACTION PLAN

PLAN: I will engage fathers by _____ during
(how? what will this look like?)

(when? over what period of time?)

CHECK-IN: How successful were you with implementing your action plan?

- Very successful
- Sort of successful
- Not very successful

Explain why and what you want to do next: _____

Dads Matter! – Part 2

3-2-1 Notes and Action Plan

After watching the Part 2 webinar, jot down some notes about your insights using a 3-2-1 approach:

3 Things You Learned or 3 Things that Made You Think

2 Strategies You Want to Try

1 Thing You Want to Do Differently or 1 Thing We Can Do Differently as a Program to Engage Fathers

YOUR ACTION PLAN

PLAN: I will engage fathers by _____ during
(how? what will this look like?)

(when? over what period of time?)

CHECK-IN: How successful were you with implementing your action plan?

- Very successful
- Sort of successful
- Not very successful

Explain why and what you want to do next: _____

