

Father Inclusive Practice: Engaging with Fathers Checklist



Get to know the father

- ✓ Introduce yourself and welcome the father to the service.
- ✓ Ask father about his background, family and experiences.
- ✓ Ask father about his worries and what is going well for him.

Establish role clarity

- ✓ Explain and ensure a mutual understanding of your role as the professional.
- ✓ Explain and ensure a mutual understanding of your role of the father's role in accessing the service.

Consider how you communicate

- ✓ Contact the father and paternal extended family at the earliest possible opportunity.
- ✓ Ask the father how he likes to communicate, he may prefer text or email.

Build a respectful relationship

- ✓ Be reliable and on time.
- ✓ Be respectful and consistent.
- ✓ Balance criticism and praise.
- ✓ Listen to father and give his voice due weight.

Practitioner considerations

- ✓ Accept fathers can have a positive role in the lives of child/ren.
- ✓ Work is crucial to masculine identity and so this commitment needs to be respected.
- ✓ If biological father is non-resident, is there another man living in the home that has a significant relationship with the child?

Working with fathers as individuals

- ✓ Working with fathers from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, practitioners must be culturally curious and talk with the father about what it means to be a father from his cultural perspective.
- ✓ Practitioners need to consider how they will adapt their practice, as they need a variety of engagement formats so they can engage with a range of fathers, such as: married fathers, co-habiting fathers, non-residential or own household fathers, LGBTQIA+ fathers, fathers with disabilities, imprisoned fathers, fathers with no recourse to public funds, fathers with no immigration status, multiple fathers, boyfriends and stepfathers.