RESEARCH ABSTRACTS – SEPTEMBER 2007

Title: Why Fathers Count: The Importance of Fathers and Their Involvement With Children.
Author(s): Brotherson, Sean E. (Ed.); White, Joseph M. (Ed.)
Published: 2007
Available from: Men’s Studies Press
http://www.mensstudies.com/msp/harriman/fathering.html
Dr. Jay Fagan, General Editor
Temple University
Ritter Hall Annex, 5th Floor
13th Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122


Title: Father Facts, 5th Edition.
Published: 2007
Available from: National Fatherhood Initiative
http://www.fatherhood.org/
101 Lake Forest Boulevard
Suite 360
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Abstract: Father Facts, 5th Edition is a comprehensive collection of statistics, charts, and research summaries on the extent and effects of father absence. A large section on the benefits of father involvement is also included. Father Facts 5 is a reference manual for fatherhood programs, family practitioners, social service agencies, researchers, and anyone concerned about the well-being of children in America today. (Author abstract)

Title: Suggestions for Evaluating Parent Education Programs.
Author(s): Rader, Shannon N.; Cooke, Betty.
Published: 2005
Available from: Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/
Box 7605
Ricks Hall
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-7605
Document available online at: http://npen.org/work/evaluating/index.html

Abstract: Evaluating parent education programs presents both challenges and opportunities. This content will provide a starting point for program staff and administrators to begin thinking about evaluation in terms of how it can improve their current programming as well as demonstrate outcomes to decision makers. Although the information and resources on these pages focuses mainly on group parent education, the information can also be applied to other parent education settings. There are three sections: 1. A Brief Introduction to Evaluation. This is a good place to start. It includes definitions of evaluation key terms, standards for evaluation, and steps in designing an evaluation. Logic models are described as a promising tool for evaluation. 2. Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework and Indicators 3. The Five-Tiered Approach to Evaluating Family Programs (Weiss & Jacobs, 1988). This is a framework for understanding, organizing, and planning evaluation activities and data collection methods. 4. References and Resources for Evaluating Parent Education Programs. This has an extensive, but not exhaustive, list of potential resources for evaluating parent education programs. A draft of Minnesota’s Parent Education Core curriculum, examples of classroom and program satisfaction surveys, and possible tools to measure parent change over time are noted. This page also has links to other resources and web pages about evaluation. (Author abstract)
Title: Evidenced Based Criteria for Family Support and Parent Education Programs.
Published: 2005
Available from: Early Childhood Iowa
http://www.state.iu.edu/earlychildhood/
Printable version (PDF): http://www.state.iu.edu/earlychildhood/docs/EvidencedBasedPrgmAssessment1.pdf

Abstract: The intent of this assessment is to guide the exploration of a program's adherence to evidence based practices. Lack of adherence to these important components jeopardizes the program from producing the same outcomes as the researched model and hampers the ability of the program to deliver the same quality of services. This assessment can be used by program supervisors and administrators, funders, or other decision makers. It can be used as a self assessment or maybe used by a funder to assist in determining where to invest their resources. Please keep in mind that there are very few evidence based family support and parent education programs available. If your program is not an evidenced based program, you may still use this tool to examine what elements of your program does adhere to evidence practices and areas to examine to improve the quality of services being delivered. (Author abstract)

Author(s): Brown, Margaret B.
Published: 2005
Available from: University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
http://ag.udel.edu/
Townsend Hall
531 South College Avenue
Newark, DE 19716-2103

Abstract: Reviews the literature on evidence-based programming, parenting stages, parenting issues, parent relationship topics, and programming focused on specific groups of parents.

Title: Fathering Practices in Twenty-Six Intact Families and the Implications for Child Contact.
Author(s): Lewis, Jane.;Welsh, Elaine.
Published: 2005
Journal Name: International journal of law in context
v. 1, 1, 2005, p. 81-99
Available from: Cambridge University Press
http://www.cup.org
40 W. 20th St.
New York, NY 10011-4211

Abstract: The nature of the contribution that fathers make to families is the subject of intense debate by both academics and policymakers. Contact between non-resident fathers and their children has been promoted by government and the courts, but remains difficult to achieve. This paper reports on interview data collected from fathers, mothers and their adolescent children in intact families on the perceptions of fathering practices and the factors that influence them. In addition, the nature and extent of fathers' involvement with their children is explored in relation to the problem of "boundary setting". While the traditional, rather distant, breadwinning father has disappeared, there is no evidence from this study of a shift towards the kind of father who takes equal day-to-day responsibility for his children. Rather, the changes in the nature of fathers' involvement with their children are more subtle, relying to a large extent on an appreciation of the importance of "passive care" and of mediation by mothers. We suggest that these findings have important implications for what might be expected by and of fathers when relationships break-up, and for the development of policies to encourage father involvement. (Author abstract)

Title: The Role of the Father in Child Development. 4th Edition.
Author(s): Lamb, Michael E.
Published: 2004
Available from: John Wiley and Sons
http://www.wiley.com/
605 3rd Ave.
New York, NY 10158-0012


**Title:** Emergence of the Professional Parenting Educator: An Introduction to the National Extension Parenting Educators Framework (NEPEF) [Teleconference].

**Published:** 2003

**Available from:** CYFERnet
http://www.cyfernet.org

**Document available online at:** http://www.cyfernet.org/interactrain/profpared.html

**Abstract:** Held in April 2003, this teleconference discusses the emergence of parenting education program and the development of the National Extension Parenting Educators Framework to ensure parent educators have the necessary skills to provide effective programs. It begins by reviewing the content of parenting education programs and the process used by parenting educators. The National Extension Parent Education Model is then presented and the following components are explained: grow, frame, develop, educate, embrace, and build. Uses of the framework are described. A slideshow accompanies the audio component of the teleconference.

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**Title:** National Extension Parenting Educators' Framework.

**Published:** 2002

**Available from:** Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/

**Box 7605**

**Ricks Hall**

**North Carolina State University**

**Raleigh, NC 27695-7605**

**Document available online at:** http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/NEPEF/

**Abstract:** In 1992, a team of Extension family life and human development specialists, with the national program staff at the USDA led a national effort to develop a model of "what" to teach parents in parent education programs. The model, called the National Extension Parent Education Model (NEPEM) set forth six categories of priority parenting practices to be learned by parents and taught by parenting educators. NEPEM's six categories of priority practices for parents -- Care for Self, Understand, Guide, Nurture, Motivate, and Advocate -- guided Extension specialists, educators, and community partners in the development of parent education programs, educational materials, and evaluation instruments which resulted in significant contributions to the national parenting education resource base. In 2000, an Extension team comprised of state family and human development specialists and staff, and the national program leader for family life and human development met for the purpose of outlining the critical skills and practices of parenting educators. After considerable discussion, this team proposed that the NEPEM's "priority practices for parents" be melded with a set of "priority processes for parenting educators" to form a new structure -- the National Extension Parenting Education Framework (NEPEF). It was the team's position that when used in tandem, the six "content" practices for parents and the six "process" practices for educators -- Grow, Frame, Develop, Embrace, Educate, and Build -- would allow parenting educators to work more effectively with parents on behalf of children. (Author abstract)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 18th annual **KIDS COUNT 2007 Data Book** is a national and State-by-State effort to track the status of children in the United States. This year's Data Book notes trends for improvement in a number of areas, including child death rates, high school dropout rates, and infant mortality rates. Several areas reflect declines in well-being, including increasing numbers of children in single-parent families and low-birthweight babies.

The Data Book also looks at the status of children in foster care in an essay, "Lifelong Family Connections: Supporting Permanence for Children in Foster Care."

In addition to the 10 key indicators included in the Data Book, an online database provides data on an additional 65 indicators of child well-being. Users can access State-by-State profiles or compare specific data across multiple States or localities within a State.

www.aecf.org/kidcount/sld/databook.jsp

**America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007** is the latest release from the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. Each year since 1997, the Forum has published this report presenting key indicators used by Federal agencies to measure important aspects of children's lives. This year's report mirrors a number of the findings noted in the **KIDS COUNT 2007 Data Book**. Other trends discussed include an increase in the number of children living with a working parent and ongoing high rates of overweight children and asthmatic children.

This 10th anniversary edition of America's Children in Brief includes data from the Children's Bureau's Child Maltreatment 2005 on child abuse and neglect, and child maltreatment is included as one of nine new indicators. The report also features a new section on children's physical environment and safety and another new section on health care. The report is available online.