

Washington County  
Community Services  
recognizes the importance of a  
child's relationship with both  
mother and father.

Research outlines the benefits  
of a father's involvement in  
the life of a child and resources  
(extended family/kin support)  
the non-resident parent can  
provide their child.

It is imperative that exhaustive  
efforts be made to identify  
and engage both mothers and  
fathers throughout the life of  
the case as a means to increase  
your child's safety, permanency  
and well-being.

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*Life affords no greater  
responsibility, no greater  
privilege, than the raising of the  
next generation.*  
~ C. Everett Koop



# Fathers are Important!



Fathers, no matter what their  
income or cultural background,  
can play a critical role in their  
children's education.

When fathers are involved,  
their children learn  
more, perform better in school,  
and exhibit healthier behavior.

Even when fathers do  
not share a home with  
their children, their active  
involvement can have a lasting  
and positive impact.

## REFERENCES

National Quality Improvement Center  
on Non-Resident Fathers and the  
Child Welfare System

<http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/resources.shtml>

Minnesota Fathers and Families Network

<http://www.mnfathers.org>



Washington County Community Services  
651-430-6457

Additional information can be found at:  
[www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us)

### Children with involved dads have:

- Better cognitive outcomes even as infants
- Higher self-esteem and less depression as teenagers
- Higher grades, test scores, and overall academic achievement
- Lower drug/alcohol use
- Higher levels of empathy and pro-social behavior



## BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN

As a dad you also have some unique opportunities to influence your children in the following ways:

- Caring about others, moving away from self-centeredness
- Increased empathy for others
- Sensitivity to nonverbal cues
- Sacredness of human life
- Problem solving skills and managing complexity
- Attention to feelings and how to express as well as manage a range of emotions
- Recognizing the importance of relationships
- Learning the art of compromise
- Patience



## BENEFITS FOR DADS

From Bill Cosby's *Bill Cosby's 100 Best Life Lessons* that all young boys should learn



*Nothing I've ever done has given me more joys and rewards than being a father to my children. ~ Bill Cosby*