Teach them to F.I.S.H.

“Give a man a fish, he’ll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, he’ll eat for a lifetime.”
F.I.S.H. is an acronym for Fathers Involved Shaping Head Start children. It is our fatherhood program for the Davis/Morgan/Summit Head Start/Early Head Start Program.
Mission: To create meaningful opportunities for men to learn and develop effective skills, spend more time with their children, and *become a player* in the development of their child.

Priorities:

(1) Increase the awareness of the positive impact of the father in the live of their child.

(2) Increase the involvement of fathers and/or father-figures in the educational development of Head Start / Early Head Start children.

(3) Improve the parenting & relationship skills that create a healthier individual and family.
Treehouse Museum

- Working together to promote father engagement & children’s learning and development.
- Educating fathers about the importance of play and early learning through interactive, hands-on exhibits.
Learning from the Beginning!
How do we catch ‘em?
Understanding Head Start Fathers

- Head Start fathers care about their children and want to be involved in their development!
- A father’s work is play!
- In many cases, fathers haven’t had a positive fathering role model.
What do they like to do?
Step into a Story . . .

Cultural Celebrations . . .
Step into a Story . . .

Treehouse ParticiPlays
Step into a Story (con’t)

Treehouse ParticiPlays
Ms. Bindergarten

Kindergarten Readiness
FISHin’ Tips!

Lessons learned after many years of catch and release.
How do we hook ‘em?

Build Relationships!

- Positive Attitude . . . value fathers
- Warm and supportive staff – meet them where they are in life
- Welcoming environment
- Expectations - trust

Provide Opportunities for involvement!

- Monthly FISHin’ Trips
- License to Read
- Daddy Days
- Dad’s Diner
- “Be There” & FIT Activities
- Relationship Classes
- Educational & Employment Support
- Community Events
Getting fathers involved!

Remember to . . .

- Start with building relationships.
- Respect their situation in life (no judging).
- Work with their schedules.
- Include their child in the activities you plan.

Thumbs up for dads!
Love is spelled . . .

Studies show that children whose fathers share meals, spend leisure time with them, or help them with reading or homework do significantly better academically than those children whose fathers do not.
We are on the same team!

- Reach out to Head Start Programs in your community.
- Share resources to benefit families and children.
- Collaborate to identify funding sources.
- Don’t recreate the wheel . . . lots of good things out there that can work for you.
- Be an advocate and voice for fathers in your community.
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