

The ABC's of a Father-Friendly Program

- A**ssets of fathers are emphasized, not their deficits
- B**udget reflects that fathers are a priority
- C**urricula/educational materials respect range of fathers being served
- D**iverse staff reflects the population using services
- E**nvironment clearly states that dads & men in families are welcome
- F**ather-child bond is emphasized and program activities encourage this
- G**ender-neutral forms, policies & procedures employed through agency
- H**ands-on learning experiences are components of father activities
- I**mportance of fathers is promoted, but not at the expense of mothers
- J**ournals, magazines and reading materials reflect the interests of dads
- K**nowledgeable males recruited to discuss sensitive concerns with fathers
- L**anguage is respectful and affirming of all parents and children
- M**arketing plan invites many faces of fathers, promotes full involvement
- N**eeds of fathers influence the program's growth and development
- O**utreach staff recruits in locations that all types of fathers visit
- P**aternal & maternal parenting styles are recognized and equally respected
- Q**uality evaluation tools and procedures that respect fathers are used
- R**ecognize and reduce barriers that limit father involvement
- S**taff receives periodic best practices training to adequately serve fathers
- T**argeted services are offered specifically for fathers
- U**nderstanding of fathers' physical and mental health concerns is paramount
- V**alues are emphasized that promote gender reconciliation
- W**omen's and men's restrooms each have a diaper deck
- X**cellent Advisory Council and active speakers' bureau are in place
- Y**oung fathers are offered targeted services
- Z**ealous attitude prevails that we are all in this together

Created by Neil Tift

National Practitioners Network for Fathers & Families