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FOOTHILLS CHILDREN'S WELLNESS NETWORK



10 Tips for Agencies and Service Providers To Enhance Father Inclusive Language/Approaches

- Consent for Participation: ensure your documents have a signature line for dad and his contact information.
- Avoid the “P” word – Fathers don’t feel included when you say “Parents” Train staff to be mindful of using the words mom and dad together and interchangeably when discussing involvement in the service.
- Invite fathers directly. To make dads truly welcome, invite him directly to increase his sense of involvement and importance. *Be sure to make eye contact with Dad as well as Mom during conversation.
- Consult – don’t assume. Find out what each father wants and needs, his circumstances and when he is available. He may have a flexible schedule that allows him to participate during formal and informal hours of operation
- Build an awareness reminder into each staff meeting by encouraging staff to give examples of being mindful and using father inclusive language.
- Add dad specific information to your welcome or intake packages.
- Send notes to dads with their children or call dad directly to gather/ share information.
- Ask Dad for his opinion/thoughts on complex parenting/health issues. He may not volunteer anything, but it will encourage the expectation for his involvement.
- Use solution focused language when discussing child related issues. Men like to be direct and to the point.
- Use the internet to share information and provide quality resources for dads. This allows fathers who may not be able to attend or have no interest in attending a program to have their needs met.