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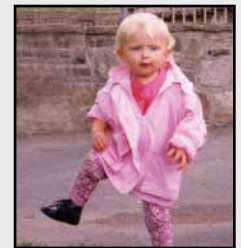
Men in Childcare



Importance of Fatherhood and Attachment

When a baby is first born...

When a baby is first born, the brain is developing at a rapid rate. It is at this time that you teach your baby about the world, and about relationships. If these pathways are not laid down in the first months and year of a baby's life - that part of the baby's brain never develops. This is the part of the brain that teaches us how to care for other people and how to have positive relationships with other people. The most important teachers the baby has are its main care givers - its Mum and Dad.



Generally speaking...

Generally speaking, fathers tend to promote independence and an orientation to the outside world. Fathers often push achievement while mothers stress nurturing, both of which are important to healthy development. With children with special needs this is even more important. As a result, children who grow up with involved fathers are more comfortable exploring the world around them and more likely to exhibit self-control, pro-social behaviour and be more independent.

A number of studies suggest...

Children with involved, caring fathers have better educational outcomes. A number of studies suggest that fathers who are involved, nurturing, and playful with their infants have children with higher IQs, as well as better linguistic and cognitive capacities. Toddlers with involved fathers go on to start school with higher levels of academic readiness. They are more patient and can handle the stresses and frustrations associated with schooling more readily than children with less involved fathers.



Kenny Spence

Kenny Spence is the Manager of Gilmerton Early Years Centre. He has pioneered innovative approaches to support men to realise the importance of their involvement in their children's lives. Kenny builds on the best practice and research internationally to promote the importance of fatherhood.