TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is delivered to teachers who work with at-risk children who are 3 and 4 years old at state-funded schools and is intended to impact children and their parents.

SUMMARY

The Father/Male Involvement Preschool Teacher Education Program is designed to support preschool teachers as they conduct outreach activities that are devised to boost father and other male role-model involvement in preschools.

EVIDENCE

One post-test only control group evaluation was conducted by the program developer. This evaluation suggested that the program may increase father and parent (i.e., mother and father combined) involvement in school, which is a protective factor for at-risk children. However, due to the design of the study, direct causal effects cannot be inferred.

COMPONENTS

In this program, child development specialists provide training to preschool teachers in areas that include initiating staff development, planning for and implementing events, and conducting outreach activities. In addition, teachers participate in private consultations with child development specialists and group discussion sessions with other teachers in which teachers problem-solve issues and brainstorm methods to increase father and male involvement.

Four main issues are addressed during implementation:

- Address possible resistance from staff regarding promoting father/male involvement in schools;
- Articulate specific rationale for encouraging father involvement (i.e., this is not a passing fad, father involvement is associated with child well-being);
- Specify targets of initiative (e.g., biological fathers, step-fathers, and/or important males); and
- Adapt current parent involvement initiatives to fit the needs of fathers/men instead of creating new initiatives.

PREVIOUS USE

The Father/Male Involvement Preschool Teacher Education Program was developed in 1995 and has been implemented in Urbana, Illinois, preschools.
**Father/Male Involvement Preschool Teacher Education Program**

**TRAINING**

This program is implemented by the child development specialists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Child development specialists train and phase-in teachers over 4 weeks.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Considerations for implementing the Father/Male Preschool Teacher Education Program include gaining preschool teacher and administrator buy-in.

The Clearinghouse can help address these considerations. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

**IMPLEMENTATION**

If you are interested in implementing Father/Male Involvement Preschool Teacher Education Program, the Clearinghouse is interested in helping you! Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

**TIME**

This program is implemented over 26 weeks in conjunction with the school year.

**COST**

No general materials are required for implementation of this program. Materials for selected activities may incur costs.

**EVALUATION PLAN**

To move the Father/Male Involvement Preschool Teacher Education Program to the Promising category on the Clearinghouse Continuum of Evidence, at least one evaluation should be performed demonstrating positive effects lasting at least one year from the beginning of the program or six months from program completion.

The Clearinghouse can help you develop an evaluation plan to ensure the program components are meeting your goals. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

**CONTACT**

Contact the Clearinghouse with any questions regarding this program.
Phone: 1-877-382-9185 Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu

You may also contact Dr. Brent McBride by mail Childhood Development Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, 1105 W. Nevada, Urbana, IL 61801, phone 1-217-333-0971, email brentmcb@uicu.edu, or visit www.promisingpractices.net/program.asp?programid=63&benchmarkid=10

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