



Let's create stronger learning communities

Increasing father involvement in early learning education and improving child outcomes



HOW OUR PROGRAMS WORK

In 2023, early learning centres have the option to select the level of support that best suits their community.

Each package program aims to engage your fathering community to support child outcomes and impact their development as they prepare for the transition to primary school.

The Fathering Project programs are evidence-based and available to all early learning centres across Australia.

To have the greatest impact on wellbeing and development outcomes for children, The Fathering Project recommends a minimum three-year approach to father engagement.



Subscription Fees and Services

Contact us to learn more about our Early Learning Programs and discuss what the best options are for your centre.

	ESSENTIALS \$400+GST 12 month subscription 	ENGAGEMENT \$750+GST 12 month subscription 
	Provides the essential resources to educate staff and families on the importance of father involvement in early learning for the benefit of children.	Offers community engagement activity ideas and toolkits to build strong family partnerships with fathers and father figures in your centre.
Digital resource library	✓	✓
Father inclusive practice guide for staff	✓	✓
Fathers and education research summary	✓	✓
Dads and kids activity resources to use at home	✓	✓
Dads and kids events toolkit and guide		✓
Online family partnerships planning tool		✓

If your early learning centre needs special or intensive support to embed father-inclusion, our bespoke 'Empower' school program might be the right option for you. Please contact us on 1300 328 437 or support@thefatheringproject.org to find out more.



We know that an effective father has a profound impact on the social, emotional and early cognitive development of a child.

The Fathering Project improves child development outcomes by engaging fathers and father figures through programs, activities, evidence-based resources and tactical learning strategies.

Everything we do, from research to the development of outreach programs, is designed to improve the lives of children and their journey towards adulthood.

Our research and experience shows an effective father or father figure has a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of a child.

The Fathering Project's early learning programs improve child development and learning outcomes by engaging, inspiring, equipping and supporting fathers and father figures to intentionally engage with their children, for their benefit.

Why your centre needs to engage fathers and father figures



By engaging fathers and father figures through programs, activities, evidence-based resources and tactical learning strategies, children's interest in learning, their confidence, and social and emotional wellbeing improves.



We help early learning centres to engage with fathers and father figures and support staff to build stronger family partnerships which benefit children.

CHILD OUTCOMES

- Increased child connectedness with the centre
- Increased physical activity and better health outcomes
- Increased self-esteem and resilience
- Reduced bullying behaviours

OUR EARLY LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Our programs support the early learning framework of being, belonging and becoming

Collaborative partnerships is at the cornerstone of what we do



How it works

We recognise that fathers and father figures are an integral to achieving positive learning and development outcomes for children. Our program fosters collaborative partnerships and supports Quality Area 6 under the National Quality Standard[^]. This in turn impacts positive learning outcomes for children through centre and family partnerships.



THE FATHERING EFFECT

We provide effective programs that benefit your centre and children

Outcomes

- More diversity in parent engagement
- Intentionally connecting fathers and children
- Strengthening collaborative partnerships between families and the centre
- Increased father connectedness with the centre
- More parents engaging in centre activities
- Increased child confidence, self-esteem and resilience

OUR KEY AREAS

The Fathering Project supports early learning in three key areas



Family Partnerships

The Family Partnership component provides early learning centres with access to online tools and evidence-based resources to support school partnerships with families, with an emphasis on engaging fathers and father figures.

Key Features of the Family Partnerships Planning Tool

The innovative planning tool helps early learning centres to further develop their family partnerships actions by:

- Using a quick and easy survey for school staff to review the school's current actions and automatically generate a strategic plan for improvement.
- Providing a framework of evidence-based strategies, suggestions from schools and other resources to support the school's actions.

While many centres have actions in place to target families, most have told us that fathers are generally under-represented within the families that do engage with them.



Digital Packages for Centres

This is easy to download content with a focus on fathering. The material is for early learning centres to share with families, and for use with educators and staff for learning and development.

Key Features of the Digital Packages

- The content is accessible from a digital library available to registered school users.
- Content covers fathering tips to include in school communications, such as newsletters, email, or social media.
- Early learning centres can download our valuable e-books covering a wide range of fathering topics and challenges.
- There are videos and podcasts featuring expert speakers from across the globe on key topics for fathers and father figures.
- Schools can provide links to the videos or podcasts for their fathering community and families or use for internal staff development training.
- Handout notes accompany each video or podcast for educators and staff to keep a summary of key points and for group discussion.

Benefits

- Easy access to content, videos, podcasts and ebooks that provide support to fathers and father figures.
- Provides for learning and development for educators and staff.
- Enables schools to make regular content available to school families to encourage active and engaged fathering.
- Content is evidence based from The Fathering Project or shared by experts in their field.



Father Engagement

At the core of all our school programs is the active and positive connection of students with their father or father figure. We provide schools with a range of resources and activity ideas, designed specifically to appeal to Dads, that will support you to make father engagement a success in your local school community.

Through planned activities, fathers and father figures can progress through the evidence-based content we provide in a relaxed environment. Fun activities for dads to do with their children are also a core component of the three year cycle.

Depending on the program you select, father engagement activities and resources provided may include –

- Ideas and guidance for holding ‘Dads Only’ events for fathers and father figures to connect with the school and learn from each other.
- Ideas and guidance for holding ‘Dads and Kids’ events at your school to connect families in a fun way, providing Dads with an opportunity to put the fathering fundamentals into practice.
- Sharable ‘at home’ activities for you to use when encouraging father-family connections out of school hours.
- Access to The Fathering Project face-to-face and online events, including connecting with other centres or hearing from learning and development experts.

To have the greatest impact on wellbeing and educational outcomes for children, The Fathering Project recommends a minimum three year approach to father engagement.

Essentials Package Resources

✓ Dads and kids activity resources for use at home

A digital PDF containing six activities for fathers and children to complete at home together. Each activity is fun and a great way for fathers and children to bond. They are designed to support a child's development; socially, emotionally and cognitively. Fathers and children are encouraged to build things together, engage in safe rough and tumble play and encourage healthy challenges and risk-taking.

✓ Essential topics for dads and father figures

Receive 10 PDF digital documents containing key essential topics relating to the role of a father in a child's development and wellbeing. The topics are research-backed and aim to improve your centre family partnerships and child outcomes.

The topics include:

- Why fathers are important in early learning
- Partnering with your child's early learning centre
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards early learning
- Supporting early learning at home
- Open communication with your early learning centre
- Encouraging learning through dad play
- Build creative thinking and language with dad play
- Building skills for early reading and language
- Building early mathematical skills
- Supporting healthy emotional growth.

✓ Father inclusive practice guide

The Father inclusive practice guide is another research-backed guide that is specifically for centre staff to use. It provides you with tips, strategies and advice to ensure your centre is best equipped to be inclusive of fathers in every way possible. We know on average mothers are more involved than fathers in a student's early learning education. This guide helps you understand the importance of including fathers and the unique role they play in your centre's community to enhance child outcomes.

Engagement Package Resources

✓ Dads and kids events toolkit guide

The dads and kids events toolkit guide provides you with best practice methods on running a successful dads and kids event at your centre. We provide you with advice on how to run the event from start to finish and a list of our most popular activities. Read case studies from our champion early learning centres on the success of their own dads and kids events and how it's impacted not only their school family partnerships but the relationships between fathers, and children.

✓ Family partnerships planning tool

Provides your centre with access to online tools and evidence-based resources to support partnerships with families, with an emphasis on engaging fathers. It provides a framework of evidence-based actions and resources to help you work more closely with parents - and in particular fathers.

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We look forward to having you part of The Fathering Project community

REGISTRATION

Have questions about what program package best suits you?

Our friendly staff are available to talk you through your options and determine which package is most suitable for your early learning centre and fathering community. Please contact us on 1300 FATHERS (328 437) or support@thefatheringproject.org for more information.

You can also find out more and register online at www.thefatheringproject.org/programs/early-learning-program/

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Once you've signed up to your selected package, we'll provide you with the appropriate ongoing support to use our tools and resources and to plan your activities. Contact us on 1300 FATHERS (328 437) or support@thefatheringproject.org

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Your selected package subscription will automatically renew on an annual basis and we'll send you an invoice each year.

FOLLOW US!

For daily tips, new resources and expert information, follow us on our social media channels.

