



EngenderHealth
for a better life



Fatherhood Matters

The Opportunities and Challenges of Working with Teen Dads

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Outline

1. Introductory Dyads: Exploring Benefits and Fears of Working with Young Fathers
2. Desired Outcomes When Working with Young Fathers
3. What Does Masculinity Have to Do with It?
4. Dos and Don'ts When Working with Young Fathers
5. Case Studies
6. Questions and Discussion



Dyads

Find a person you do not already know and share:

1. One reason you find it important to work with teen fathers

2. One fear or challenge you have in working with young fathers

Be prepared to share your key points of discussion with the larger group.



Desired Outcomes When Working with Young Fathers

- Work Skills, Self-Sufficiency, and Employment
- Responsible Fatherhood / Child Involvement
- Prevention of Risky Behaviors
- Psychological Well-Being / Stress Reduction
- Healthy Relationships and Co-Parenting



Harmful Messages of Masculinity

- “Don’t show your emotions.”
- “Anger is an acceptable emotion.”
- “A father’s primary role is of financial provider.”
- “Caring and nurturing is the role of mothers”
- “Men should be players.”
- “Men don’t need to seek help or health services.”



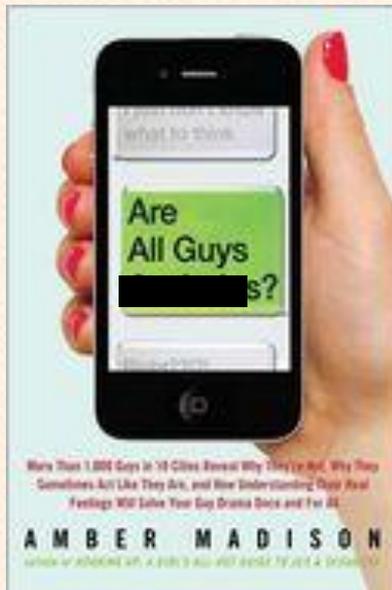
Redefining Masculinity and Fatherhood

- Able to express emotions to their children
- Primary role is to be connected to their children
- Partners should share roles, responsibilities and duties
- Men respect women and treat them well
- Fathers are able to seek help and support when needed



What NOT to DO When Working with Teen Dads

- Stereotyping
- Stereotyping
- Stereotyping

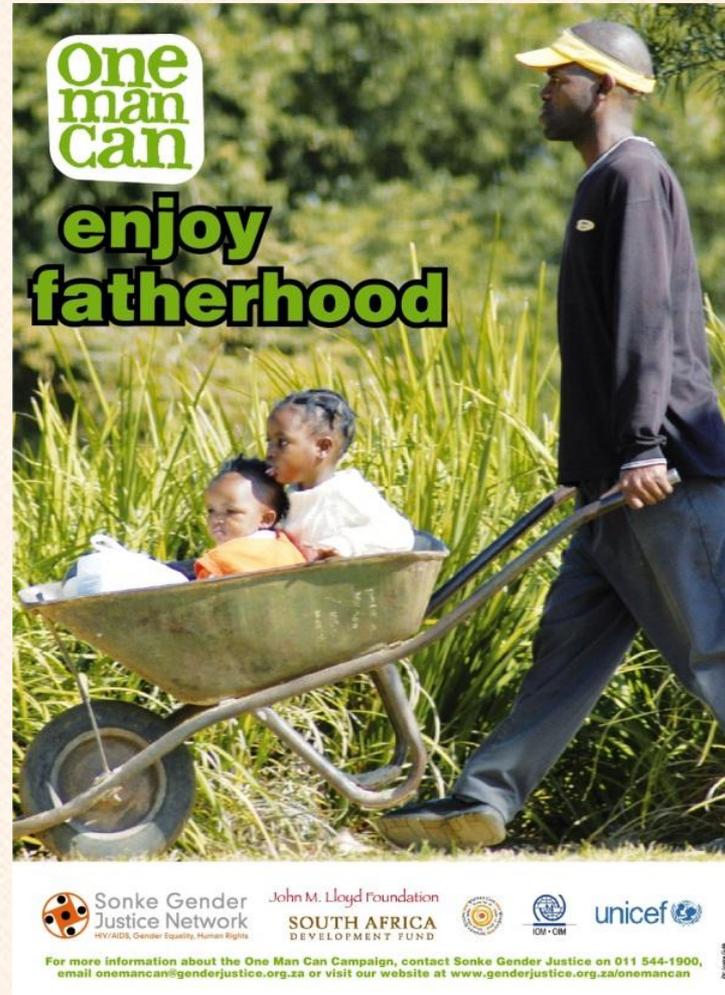


**Guys are a@#\$\$%^&.
Be safe.
Every time.**



What to Do When Working with Teen Dads (Message)

- Celebrate fatherhood
- Connect responsible fatherhood to being an important part of manhood
- Redefine the ways that a dad can contribute to his children



What to Do When Working with Teen Dads (Message)



YOU ARE MY FIRST KISS.
YOU ARE MY FATHER.

Even though the older generation might not get it, you're not afraid to show your affection for your family in public or to share the parenting responsibilities.

In a world in which too many children feel that their fathers are distant, dominating or closed-off, you have a chance to be a father who cares deeply and compassionately for those that they love-- and who is not afraid to show it.

For more on the importance of dad's affection:
www.Men-Care.org



What to Do When Working with Teen Dads (Message)



YOU ARE MY TICKLE MONSTER.
YOU ARE MY FATHER.

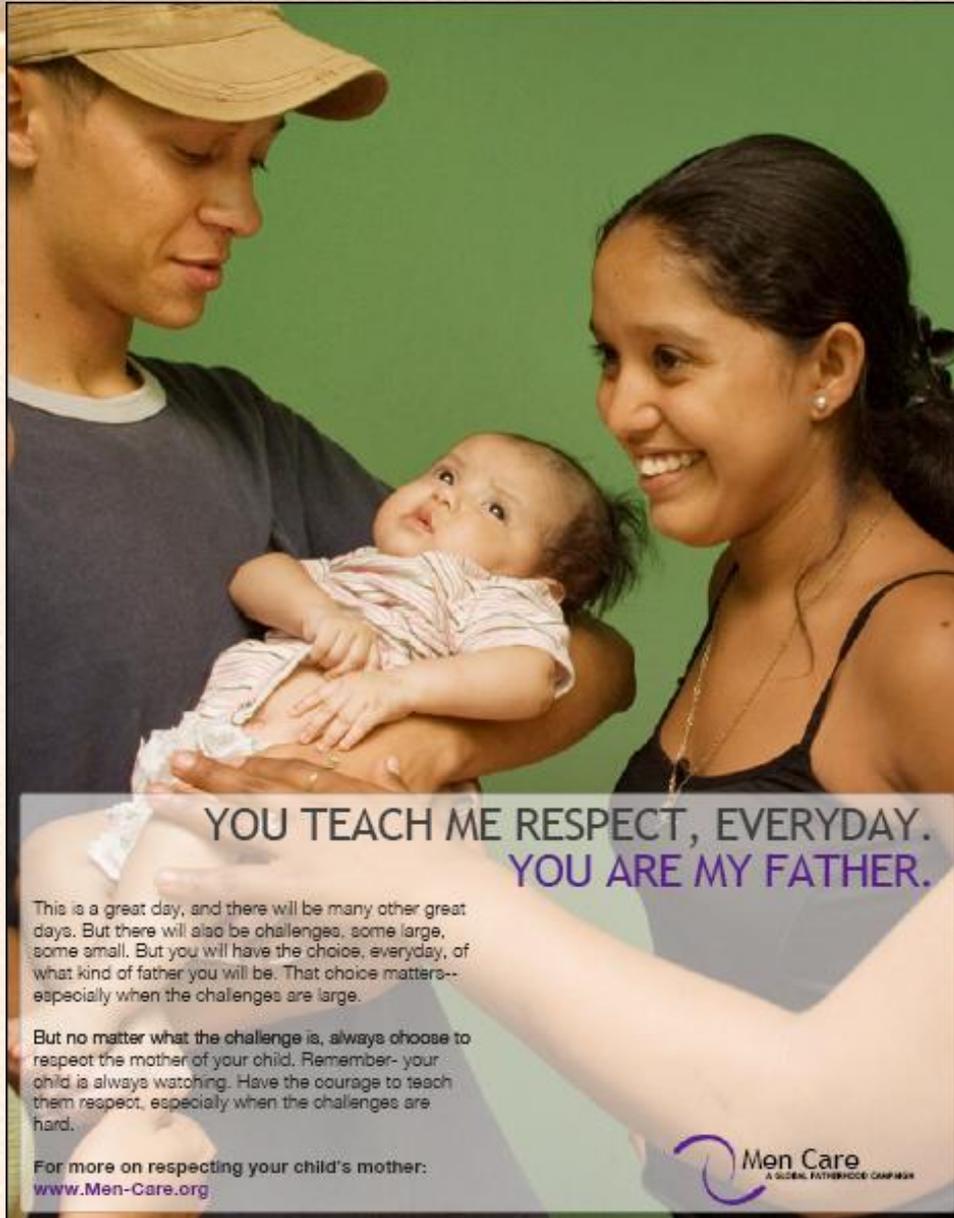
There's nothing like the sound of your children laughing-- except maybe if they're laughing because you are playing with them.

But play isn't just fun and games. Playing opens up worlds of discovery and creativity that helps children learn and creates the relationship of a lifetime: one that's positive, fun, safe and caring. Everyday, for however long you can, play with your children. You'll be surprised at how good you'll feel too.

For more on the importance of play:
www.Men-Care.org



What to Do When Working with Teen Dads (Message)



**YOU TEACH ME RESPECT, EVERYDAY.
YOU ARE MY FATHER.**

This is a great day, and there will be many other great days. But there will also be challenges, some large, some small. But you will have the choice, everyday, of what kind of father you will be. That choice matters--especially when the challenges are large.

But no matter what the challenge is, always choose to respect the mother of your child. Remember- your child is always watching. Have the courage to teach them respect, especially when the challenges are hard.

For more on respecting your child's mother:
www.Men-Care.org

 **Men Care**
A GLOBAL FATHERHOOD CAMPAIGN

What to Do When Working with Teen Dads (Message)



My Father

UtataWam

UtataWamiNyakanyi50

UtataWakaPhangeliUtataWam

LePhotoibonisaindleloathisebenzeNgayo
imihlangemihla

kubakulegadiSithiSiFumaneUkutya

kubasithiSikwaziUkubaSemandlemi

Sixotneikatjeziko

NdiyamthandaUtataWamNaNgonaEng
Namali

My father is 50 years old. He is not working. This picture shows how he works around everyday. From this garden we get food which keeps us healthy and well fed. I love my father even if he has no money.



What to Do When Working with Teen Dads (Process)

- Identify staff that are experienced, empathetic, enthusiastic and well-connected to the community
- Offer a comprehensive array of services or partner with other providers
- Provide incentives for teen dads and their families
- Design a program using a theoretical model and clear intended outcomes



Case Studies

Divide into small groups of four. Each group will read one of three case studies. Read and discuss. Be prepared to share key recommendations from your group:

- Case Study #1: Challenges in getting teen fathers to come for services
- Case Study #2: Challenges in working with teen parenting couples
- Case Study #3: Lack of clear outcomes for what program wants to achieve



Questions and Discussion

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