



Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading

July 15, 2015



**National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse**

fatherhood.gov



How to Ask a Question

Meeting Layouts Pods Audio

Chat (Everyone) NRFC Webinar Slides July 2015.pptx Draw Stop Sharing

Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading

July 15, 2015

Useful Websites

To ask a question to presenters, type a question here

Chat with fellow Webinar attendees here

Downloadable Resources	
Name	Size
Presenter Bios July 2015.pdf	539 KB

Web Links	
www.fatherhood.gov	
Strongfathers.com	

Ask a Question

Upload File... Download File(s) Browse To

National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
fatherhood.gov



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

- DHHS/ACF Office of Family Assistance funded national resource to support fathers and families.
- Resources are available for dads, fatherhood programs, researchers, and policy makers.
- Visit the NRFC: www.fatherhood.gov
 - www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit for *Responsible Fatherhood Toolkit*.
 - www.fatherhood.gov/webinars for archives of all our webinars.
- Contact any of our staff: info@fatherhood.gov
- Encourage fathers or practitioners to contact our national call center toll-free at **1-877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411)**.
- Engage with us via social media:
Facebook: [Fatherhoodgov](https://www.facebook.com/Fatherhoodgov) Twitter: [@Fatherhoodgov](https://twitter.com/Fatherhoodgov)



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov

Toll-free: 877-4DAD411 (877-432-3411) | Fax: 703-934-3740 | info@fatherhood.gov | www.fatherhood.gov

Lisa Washington-Thomas, NRFC COTR, lwashington-thomas@acf.hhs.gov

Kenneth Braswell, NRFC Project Director, kenneth.braswell@gmail.com

Patrick Patterson, NRFC Project Manager, patrick.patterson@icfi.com



Our Goals Today

Share information about:

- The benefits for children when their dads read aloud to them.
- Ways to help dads bond with their young children through reading.
- Strategies to help men who may have struggled with reading improve their own reading skills.
- Resources for more information.



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Today's presenters

- Allison Hyra, Fellow, ICF International, Fairfax, VA
- Glen Palm, Professor Emeritus, Child & Family Studies, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN
- J. Michael Hall, President and Founder, Strong Fathers-Strong Families, Fort Worth, TX



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Allison Hyra, Ph.D.
Fellow, ICF International
allison.hyra@icfi.com

July 15, 2015



Introduction

- Quality of parent-child interaction matters.
- Reading is a fundamental skill for self-sufficiency and engagement in civil society.
- Encouraging fathers to read to their children can improve:
 - Relationships
 - Literacy
 - Father impact
 - Program connection to children (2-gen).



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Why should we focus on literacy?

- For children, reading proficiently by 3rd grade is a significant predictor of:
 - Success at school.
 - High school completion.
 - Future economic stability.
- When dads are engaged with their children's education and experiential learning, their children are more likely to read well by 3rd grade.
- For fathers, literacy is associated with earnings.
 - Low-income men may not be able or willing to engage in adult literacy programs.



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Some Statistics

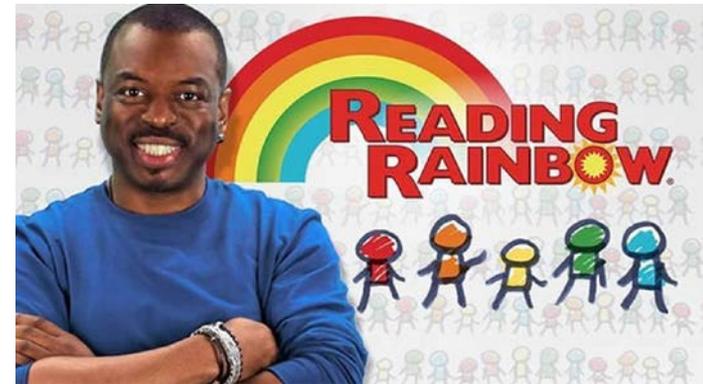
- When they enter 4th grade, 31% of all kids are reading at 4th grade or higher reading level.
 - 41% of White kids, 13% of African-American kids, 15% of Latino kids.
- Middle income kids read more picture books than low income kids.
 - Median of 54 compared to 2.
- Middle income kids have had 10 times as many hours of 1-on-1 reading by 1st grade.
 - 1000 hours for middle income vs 100 hours for low income.
- 43% of U.S. adults read at a “basic” or lower reading level.





How does father-child reading help?

- Helps child hear the sounds of speech.
- Supports attachments.
- Introduces children to new ideas and concepts and exposes them to proper sentence structure.
- Is associated with reading for enjoyment.
- Associates reading with love, comfort and pleasure if you cuddle while you read.





Barriers to reading in some low-income families

- Work, time and stress.
- Living apart.
- Low confidence in reading skills.
- Not a part of their childhood.
- Access to books.
- Unaware of benefits.



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Examples of Programs that Effectively Support Parent/Child Reading

- Reach out and Read (ROAR).
- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).
- Early Head Start.
- Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED).
- Read to me Daddy.
- Hope House Father to Child Reading Program.



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Ways to Encourage Father-child Reading

- Get dads comfortable with reading by sharing children's books.
 - Encourage them to read a story aloud if they are comfortable doing so.
- When dads are comfortable reading to their kids, encourage them to do so from an early age.
- Have a lending library or schedule a trip to the library.
- If they don't live with their kids, encourage dads to tell their kids stories over the phone or make audio or video tapes of themselves reading a story.
- See the list of Suggested Resources prepared for this webinar.





Suggestions for Dads

- Point out letters on street signs or store signs.
- Share picture books and/or make up stories to tell your children.
- Sing songs and jingles, recite nursery rhymes, talk in rhymes or alliteration. *"My baby boy wears blue boots"*.
- Visit the library with your children.
- Ask your children questions while you read to them.
- Read what makes you happy.



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Resources

- Curriculum activity from Parents as Teachers: *Reading with Your Child*, an activity in the [Focus on Fathering](#) curriculum.
 - Available for free download at www.parentsasteachers.org or from the NRFC's online toolkit at www.fatherhood.gov/toolkit.
- Selected list of resources for parents from the Department of Education:
(<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml>)



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading

Glen Palm

Professor Emeritus, Child and Family Studies
St. Cloud State University
gfpalm@stcloudstate.edu

July 15, 2015



fatherhood.gov



Dads and Early Literacy





Ways Parents (Dads) Promote Literacy



- Model Reading
- Read to child
- Create opportunities for verbal interaction
- Communicate expectations for literacy skills
- Provide materials & experiences at home

Hess & Holloway (1984)



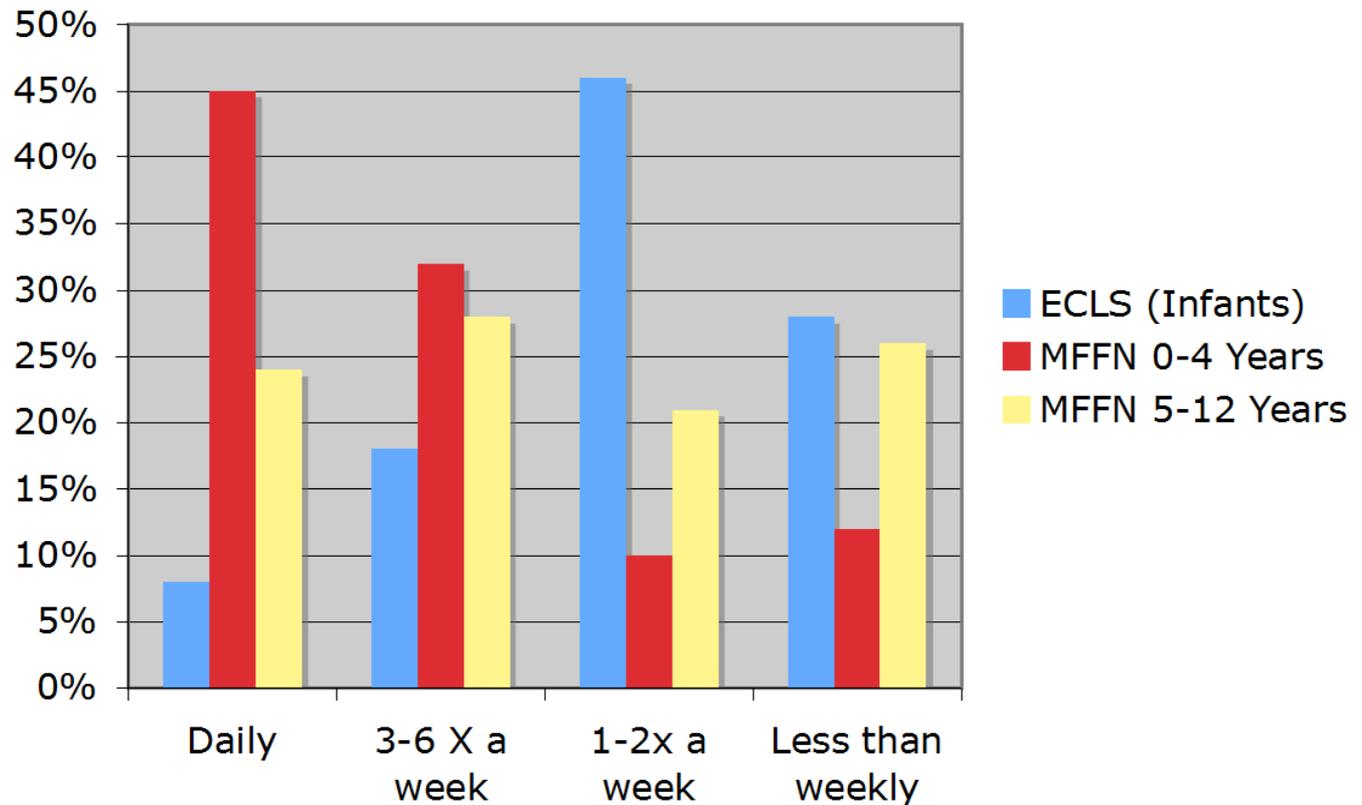
National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Preschool Years 0-4 are Critical Period for Reading to Children

Fathers Reading to Children at Different Ages



Data from Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS) with fathers of 9 month-old infants + Minnesota Fathers and Families Network (MFFN) surveys with fathers of 0-4 and 5-12 year-olds.





Dads Who Read to Children

- Are also involved in child care tasks (bathing & feeding) Oritiz, Stile & Brown (1999)
- Are in positive family context + mother works Oritiz, Stile & Brown (1999)
- Live with their children
 - 25% of dads who live with their kids ages 0-4 read everyday compared to 5% of dads who don't live with their children
Martinex, et. al., 2006
- Have achieved a higher level of education
U.S. Dept. of Education, 1996 data from NCES





Benefits of Fathers Reading to their Children

- Fosters emotional security
- Aids relaxation
- Vital means of transmitting shared values
- Children are superior readers
- Children perform better in school
- Children develop better relationship skills



Flouri (2003) and Green (2002)



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



What Do Fathers Model Reading

Ortiz, 1999 Study

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Dictionaries
- Maps
- Telephone Directories
- Manuals

21st Century Dads

- Online news articles
- Online sports videos
- Electronic dictionary or spell check
- GPS systems
- Smart phone contacts
- YouTube video instructions



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Mother and Father Differences

Adam@Home



- Dads involved in different ways but less time than moms.
- Moms recognize importance of early exposure to literacy.
- Moms initiate book reading at different times of day.
- Dads reading often supervised by moms.

Nichols (2000)



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Lessons from Practice

Dads & Kids Book Club

Goals

- Strengthen father-child relationship through shared literacy activities.
- Dads understand their role as important to literacy development.
- Dads have new ideas and strategies for supporting early literacy.

Six week format

- Warm-in Time
 - Scavenger hunt
- Circle Time with Children
 - Book and Song
- Dads & Kids Activities
 - Dramatic play
 - Cooking
 - Craft, Art
- Discussion with Dads





More Lessons From Practice

- Do not underestimate dads.
- Dads may be unsure of where to begin with literacy activities.
- Communicate directly with dads.
- Start with books that have traditional male themes.
- Show that you value fathers' abilities and interests - this can increase motivation.
Fletcher & Dally (2002)
- Use hands-on activities (making books, cooking, building toys).
EHS study (2006)

Karther (2002)



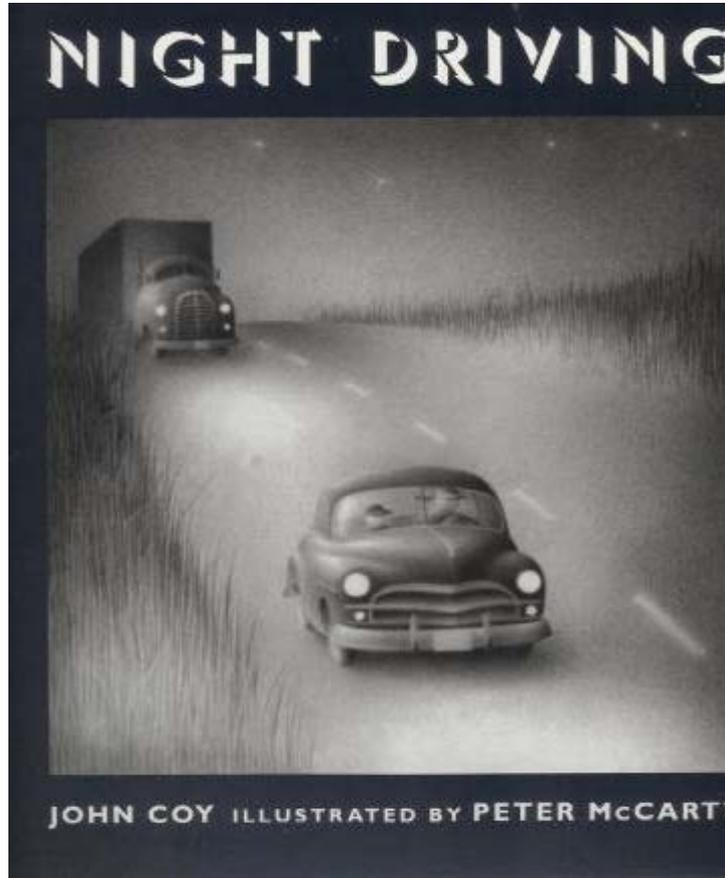
National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Night Driving

Multiple Paths to Literacy Development



Activities to do in the Car:

- Telling Stories
- Singing with the Radio
- Alphabet Game
- Reading Signs
- Talking about the "ball game"



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Summary of lessons learned

- Target reading activities for early childhood years (ages 2-6) to engage fathers early.
- Communicate directly with dads to recruit them.
- Use books that are father friendly and reflect male themes/interests.
- Use hands-on activities to encourage father-child interaction.
- Provide children's books to keep and share at home.
- Model interactive reading strategies for dads.





Bonding Through Shared Book Reading





Resources: Dads and Early Literacy

- Dads & Kids Book Club.
 - Manual to help create book club.
 - Plans for Book Club activities with 12 children's books.

<http://minnesotahumanities.org/outreach/dadsandkids>

- Reading with Dad Booklist.

<http://minnesotahumanities.org/programs/readingwithdad>



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Building Strong Programs to promote child literacy while promoting father engagement



J. Michael Hall, M.Ed.
President and Founder
Strong Fathers-Strong Families
MikeHall@StrongFathers.com

July 15, 2015



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Introduction

- Strong Fathers has worked with over 162,000 dads.
- Public Schools (Title I) and Head Start programs.
- We personally facilitate or train organizations to facilitate the following programs (among others):
 - Bring Your Dad to School or Head Start Day.
 - Dad and Kid Science Night.
 - Dad and Kid Math Morning or Math Night.
 - Dad and Kid Reading Morning or Reading Night.
- Programs have three qualities every time:
 - Grassroots (on the ground, nose to nose with dads).
 - Strength Based (what can dads DO with their kids).
 - Child Outcome Focused (what does this do for KIDS?).



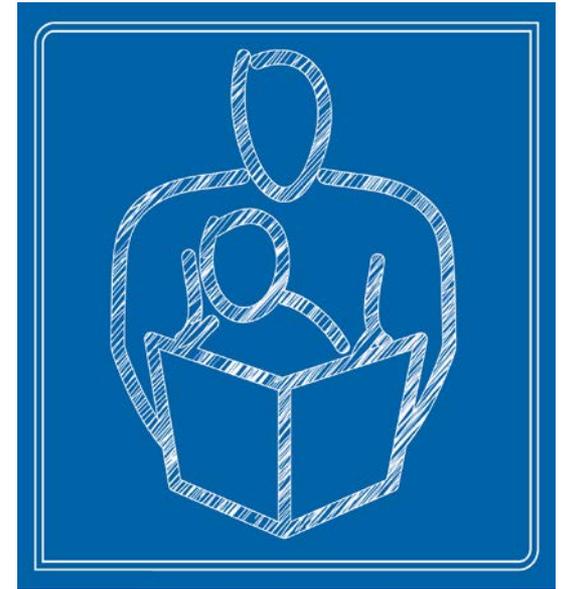
National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov



Good fatherhood programs are:

- Interactive
- Relational
- Relevant



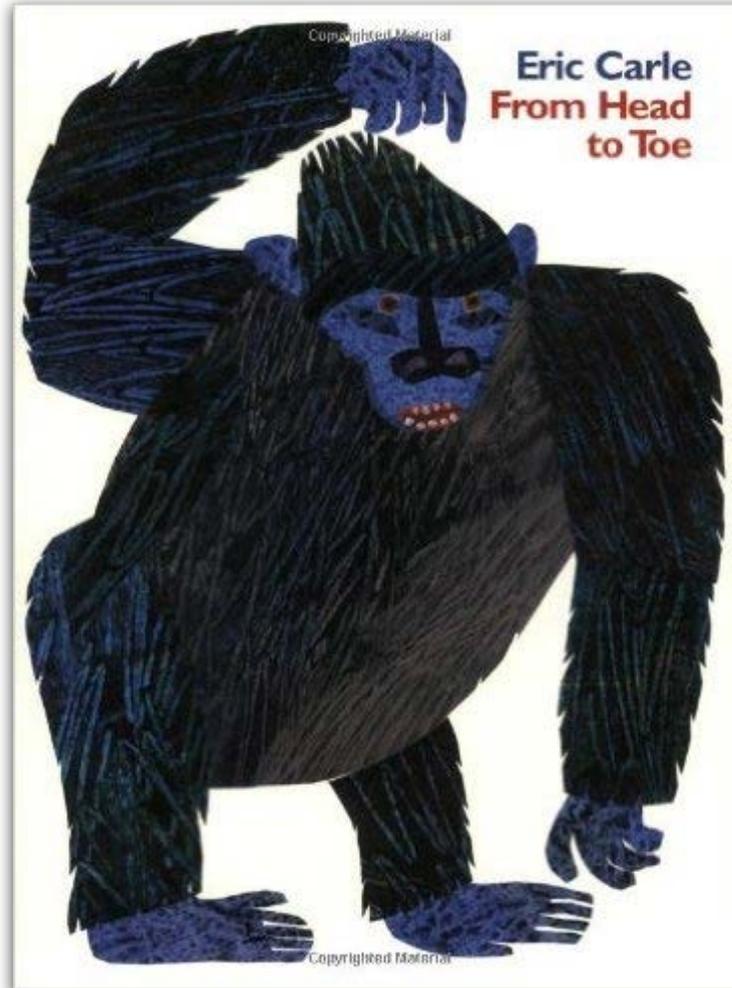
Dad and Kid
Reading
Night



fatherhood.gov



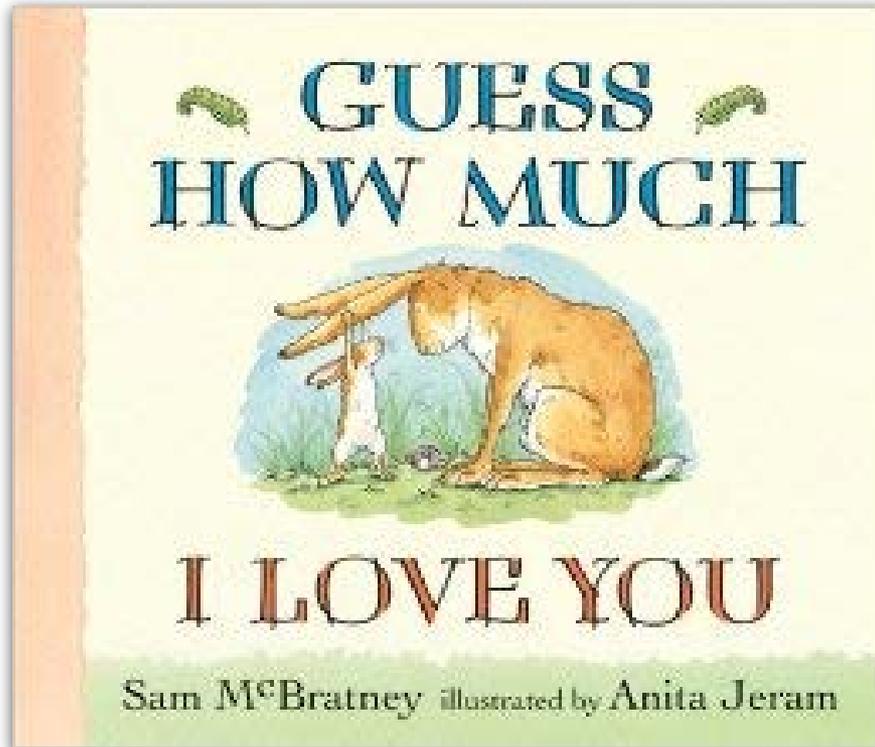
What books do we use?



Dad and Kid
Reading
Night



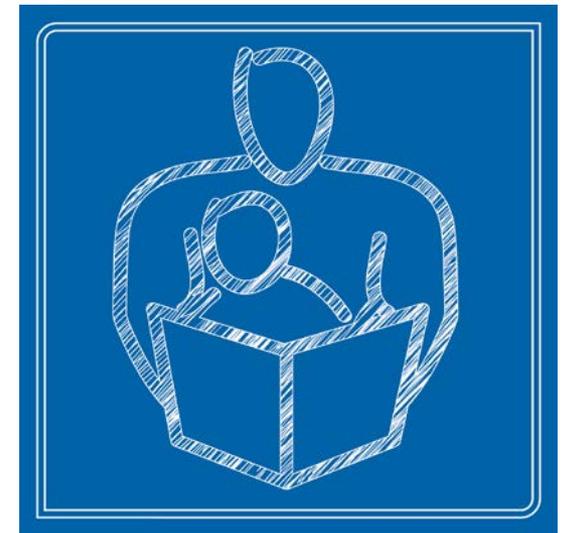
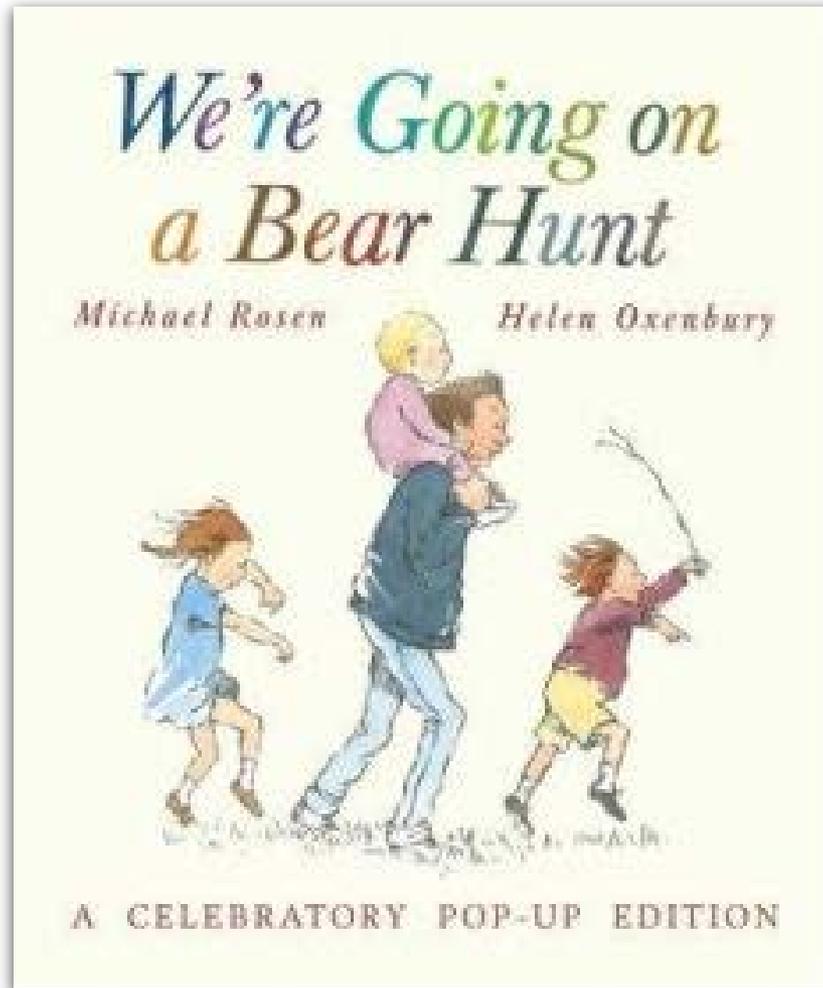
What books do we use?



Dad and Kid
Reading
Night



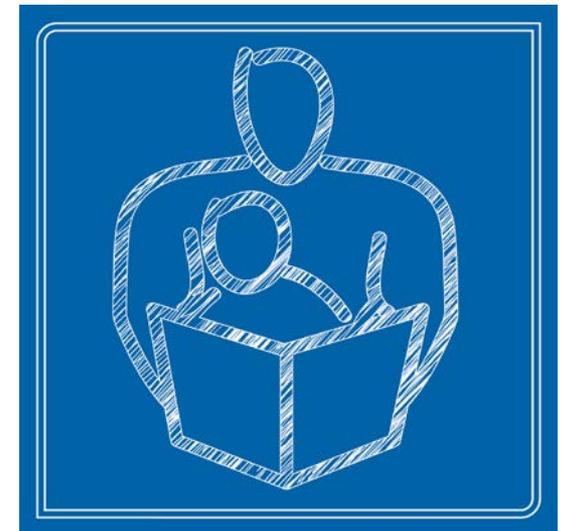
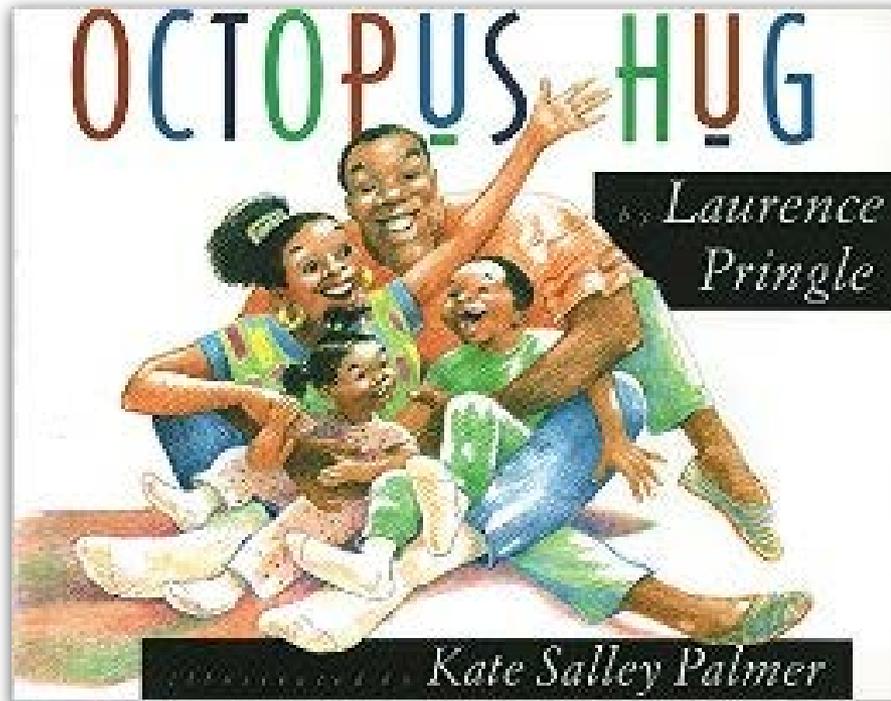
What books do we use?



Dad and Kid
Reading
Night



What books do we use?



Dad and Kid
Reading
Night



Making it work



Model Masculine Reading

- Many men lack a good example.
- They have only seen how women read (school and home).
- Need permission to read like they DESIRE.
- If dad is not literate, it is still safe to participate.





Making it work



Qualities of Reading Materials

- Interactive and male themed.
- Available in English and Spanish.
- Not too long, even when interactive.
- Teach additional lessons.



fatherhood.gov



Making it work



Focused on father/child relationship

- Relationship is impetus for reading.
- One strengthens the other.
- Both have knowledge of activities.
- Keeps dads accountable.





Making it work



Built to reach a large number of dads

- Public Schools.
- Head Start, Pre- K
- Libraries, Community Centers
- Churches (*“David and Goliath,” “Good Samaritan”*)



fatherhood.gov



Resources

- J. Michael Hall (2007). [Opening Books to Fathers and Children: Strengthening Children's Literacy](#), Southwest Educational Development Laboratory newsletter.

- Two articles in the PTA National Magazine [Our Children](#) (2008):

- *Boost Literacy with a Dad and Kid Reading Night*
- *Life on Mars: Understanding the Culture of Fathers*



- J. Michael Hall (blog, 2015). [Three Reasons Every Father Should Read to Their Child](#)





Contact information



J. Michael Hall, M.Ed.

mikehall@strongfathers.com

(817) 301-4086

StrongFathers.com/NRFC



How to Ask a Question

Meeting Layouts Pods Audio

Chat (Everyone) NRFC Webinar Slides July 2015.pptx

Draw Stop Sharing

Strengthening Literacy and Father-Child Relationships through Reading

July 15, 2015

Chat with fellow Webinar attendees here

Useful Websites

To ask a question to presenters, type a question here

Files to download

Downloadable Resources	
Name	Size
Presenter Bios July 2015.pdf	539 KB

Web Links	
www.fatherhood.gov	
Strongfathers.com	

Ask a Question

Upload File... Download File(s) Browse To



Contact:

- NRFC: info@fatherhood.gov
 - comments, questions, suggestions for future webinar topics, information or resources that you recommend.
- Today's presenters:
 - Allison Hyra: allison.hyra@icfi.com
 - Glen Palm: gfpalm@stcloudstate.edu
 - J. Michael Hall: mikehall@strongfathers.com



National
Responsible
Fatherhood Clearinghouse

fatherhood.gov