

# Father Engagement and its Importance

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# Dad's Presence = Better Academics

Even when race, education, income, and other socioeconomic factors are equal, living without dad doubles a child's chance of dropping out of high school (Farrell & Gray, 2018).

Students coming from father-present families score higher in math and science even when they come from academically weaker schools (Farrell & Gray, 2018).

# National Fatherhood Initiative





Do we all agree that children are better off with two involved parents?



What if we did this ...



Ah!



No, we don't.

# Challenges in Fatherhood Engagement



# Common Barriers

- **Dad** – Some men do not want to be parents even though they made a child.
- **Mom/caretaker** – they can serve as gatekeeper, justified or unjustified.
- **“The system”** – laws can feel as though they are slanted towards custodial parents.
- **Financial Resources** – sometimes legal action is necessary for fathers to gain access to their children.



# Who can help?

**Every Parent Matters – Public  
Health Dayton- Montgomery  
County**

**Montgomery County  
Fatherhood Initiative – Office  
of Strategic Initiatives**







# Who We Are:



**Team of certified  
community  
health workers**



**Home  
visiting  
program**



**Safe sleep  
ambassadors**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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County**



# Every Parent Matters

- **Employment services** (including educational services and transportation)
- **Child support** (setting up, making payments, adjustments/modifications)
- **Parenting time** (IE visitation rights, establishing paternity)
- **Custody information**
- **Re-entry from incarceration/returning citizens**
- **Classes:** Nurturing Fathers, 24/7 Dads, On My Shoulders, Inside Outside Dad
- **Community:** Monthly Fatherhood Club meetings, the last Monday of the



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# What Our Programs Do:

**Intake EPM:** We receive referrals for fathers from throughout Montgomery County. We reach out, and assess their immediate needs, as well as their goals and wants as a father and as a man. Establish a work plan to meet their goals.

**Assess MHI:** We assess their health as men with our Men's Health Initiatives program. We survey the fathers to see if they have medical or health questions/needs.

**Questions include:** father's access to health and dental insurance, primary care physician and dentist, and if they have seen their physician in the last 6-12 months.



# Child Support

**We work with fathers to:**



**Help set up  
payments for  
child support**



**Modify child  
support due to  
employment  
changes**



**Remove driver's  
license block due  
to overdue or  
missed payments**



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# Parenting Time



**Legal  
Paternity**



**Visitation  
Rights**



**Custody  
Partnerships**



**Volunteer  
Lawyer  
Projects**



**Juvenile Court &  
Citizens Services**



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# Parenting Classes

**Every Parent Matters offers evidence-based parenting classes from the National Fatherhood**

**Initiative:**

- Nurturing Fathers
- 24/7 Dad
- On My Shoulders
- Inside Outside Dad

*Classes run an average of one hour per session, for 12-14 weeks, with scheduling exceptions as needed*



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## **History of Montgomery County Fatherhood Initiative**

- Began Nov 2010**
- Only Fatherhood Program in the state at the time**
- Same Director**



# Montgomery County Fatherhood Initiative (MCFI) is...

Collaborating with local  
agencies to get fathers  
**linked** to services such  
as Legal Assistance,  
Employment, and  
Visitation/Custody  
information.



# MCFI is...doing **LOTS** of Out-reach

Prisons



Schools



Churches





Engagement



**SEE (Serving,  
Educating,  
Empowering) Grant**

**Ohio Commission on  
Fatherhood**

**July 2023 - present**

**Parent  
Visitations**

**Employment**

**Work Boots**

**Transportatio  
n**

**Certification  
Fees**

**License  
Reinstatement**

**Past-Due  
Child Support**

**Expectant  
Fathers**

**Job and  
Family  
Services**

**Program  
Information**

**Citizens  
Returning  
From**

**Incarceration**



## Engaging Activities

- Banquet (Fri. 6/13, 6-9pm, Sinclair Banquet Center)
- Celebrate Fatherhood (Sat. 6/14, 10am-3pm, Levitt Pavilion)
- Fatherhood Club
- Legal Clinic
- Backpack Giveaway
- Global Warming
- SEE (serving, educating, empowering) grant

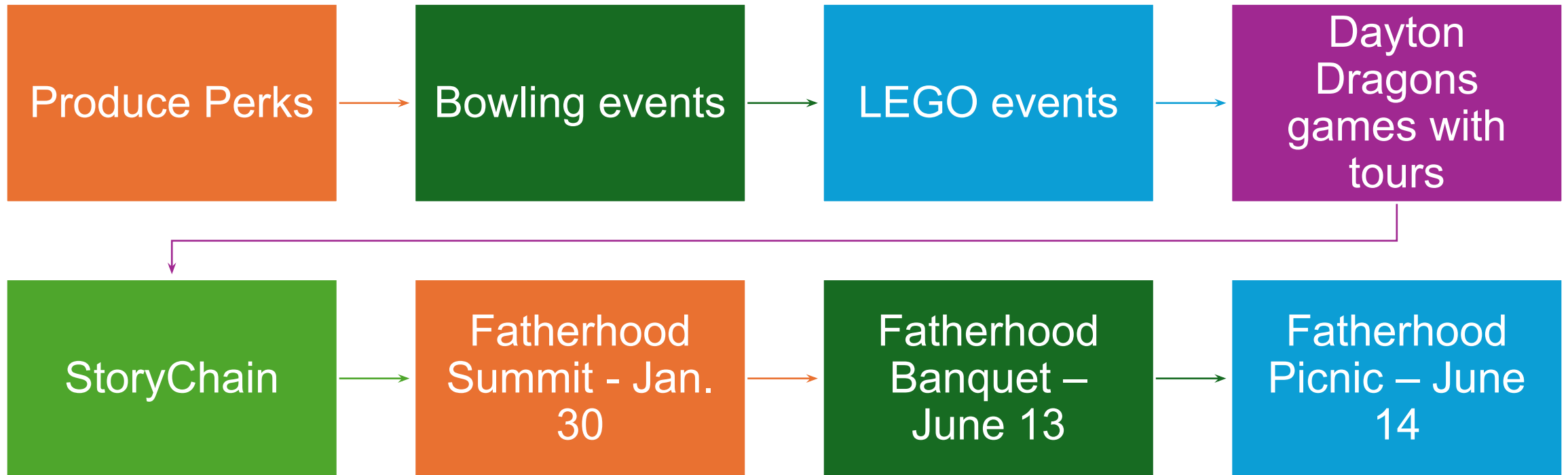
# Montgomery County Fatherhood Summit

Jan. 30, 2025





# Upcoming events and Programs



# References

Farrell, W., & Gray, J. (2019). *The boy crisis: Why our boys are struggling and what we can do about it*. BenBella Books.

*Father involvement programs for organizations and families: NFI.*  
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# Questions?

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