



What is Think Fathers?

The Think Fathers campaign was launched in November 2008 to initiate public debate around the importance of fathers' positive involvement in their children's lives.

The campaign will encourage professionals right across the board – in schools, health, early years, social work and youth work – to look carefully at what they do and challenge themselves to consider and include fathers and other male role models that are important in a child's life. Think Fathers is also working with public and private sector employers to help to embed and promote father-friendly working practices such as flexible hours for dads.

Who is involved?

The campaign is being delivered through a partnership between the DCSF and parenting and children's organisations, workforce bodies and employers and practitioners who are committed to driving reform and promoting the role of fatherhood. Partners in the campaign include The Children's Society, Fatherhood Institute and the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners.

Why are fathers important?

Because they matter a great deal to children:

Children with close, positive relationships with their fathers develop better friendships, more empathy, and higher levels of educational achievement and self-esteem. They are also less likely to become involved with crime or substance abuse.

When children rarely or never see their fathers, there's a risk that they demonise or idealise them; they blame themselves and could suffer distress, anger and self-doubt.

If children are in conflict with their fathers or their fathers are harsh or neglectful, they are much more likely to become destructive and aggressive themselves.

How can I get involved?

We are currently working in partnership with services and employers to develop guidance and share best practice on how to support and engage with fathers. If you have ideas or experience in engaging with fathers, or you want to become a Think Fathers Champion, we would like to hear from you. We would also like to hear from dads and their families about their individual experiences.

We will be publishing guidance for children's services and also sharing best practice on our website. The campaign will also drive debate in the media through a regional 'shed tour' and a number of other high profile national 'media moments' to promote and celebrate fatherhood: there are also opportunities for you to be involved with these activities.

Visit www.think-fathers.org to find out how to:

- Join the online debate about fatherhood
- Tell us about what your agency is doing for fathers
- Sign up as a Think Fathers Champion
- Pre-register to receive a guidance toolkit
- Find out more about getting involved in the regional 'shed tour'
- Register your interest in attending our June 'summit event' to promote and celebrate fatherhood

