



UK fathers in their first year: Factsheet 6

New dads need more workplace support

- Working hours are the strongest influence on fathers' engagement with their infants – and their level of engagement in Year One shapes their level of involvement in Year Three (more even than their working hours in Year Three).
- Studies have found a direct relationship between fathers' leave-taking and their direct involvement in routine childcare and housework – in terms of both *frequency* of caregiving activities and *share* of parental infant care.
- *Solo* care by fathers, especially in Year One, is especially significant for gender equality, child outcomes, family wellbeing and father-child relationships. It is a stronger predictor of fathers' engagement with their 3-year-olds than general involvement in nurturing care tasks.
- Fathers in the UK have no individual entitlement to paid parental leave. They have a statutory right to 10 working days' paternity leave, to be taken directly after their child's birth and paid at a statutory rate that is lower than the minimum wage.

*These facts and insights are drawn from **Bringing Baby Home**, the Fatherhood Institute's evidence review about first-year fatherhood in the UK, funded by the Nuffield Foundation. For references and to read the full report, executive summary and recommendations, visit <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/2022/contemporary-fathers-in-the-uk/>.*

Join the Fatherhood Institute's campaign to improve support for fathers, Time with Dad here: <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/time-with-dad/>

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