



FATHERS MATTER: Let's promote father inclusion in child healthcare!

RESEARCH STUDY: ENHANCING HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCES AMONG FATHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

This study outlines the **importance of father inclusion** in the care of children with disabilities. Barriers and facilitators in the healthcare system are outlined and first-person experiences are described. **Solutions to improve father inclusion and engagement in their child's healthcare are provided.**

To access the study, click this [link](#). To access the video of the findings, click this [link](#)



HOW CAN FATHERS HELP?

- ✓ Clinicians reported that **fathers' involvement can positively contribute** to the child's development, recovery, and well-being.
- ✓ Fathers play a **crucial role in the care of their child.**
- ✓ For fathers, prioritizing the care of their child, advocating for their needs, increasing their knowledge of the condition, and persevere are all ways to **promote a positive treatment process and interactions with healthcare providers.**



WHAT DO FATHERS THINK?

Fathers greatly value interactions with healthcare professionals in relation to their child and would like to be more involved in the treatment process of their child.

[Watch this video](#) for the first-hand experience of the father of a child with a developmental disability.



HOW CAN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS IMPROVE FAMILY- CENTERED CARE?

Including fathers in child's healthcare is key to **family-centered practice.**

Enablers include active-listening rather than ignoring the father, being supportive rather than focusing on the negatives, considering cultural differences, providing explanations, and taking time to address their concerns.

6 guiding principles can enhance these interactions: Stay present, be curious, be clear, remain patient, be inclusive, and display sensitivity.

Dad: "Those interactions stick with you for a long-time. They are very significant. A clinician might see many families a day, but for us, it is a big deal!"

Clinician: "The strategies dads think of might be something totally out of your ball game, so they are giving a completely different perspective that could be excellent. By disregarding them, you are missing that."

