



Uninsured Children



Many uninsured children come from families where at least one parent is working. Find out if your child is eligible to receive free or low-cost health insurance at [InsureKidsNow.gov](http://InsureKidsNow.gov).



The Essence of Responsible Fatherhood

Responsible fatherhood involves commitment, integrity, self-sacrifice, and unconditional love. Members of the general public can use this description of the four-part framework on fathering to further explore the essence of responsible fatherhood and how a father's concern for the well-being of his child is just one small part of taking an active, positive role in a child's life. Involvement, consistency, awareness, and nurturance are the four parts of the framework.

When you hear the word, "father," what images come to mind? What about the word, "daddy?" Depending on what type of father you had growing up, these words can elicit very positive or very negative memories. Some children grow up with fathers who are actively and positively involved in their lives. These fathers love their children, spend time with them, praise them, play with them, protect them, teach them, and help them deal with the struggles of life. On the other hand, some children grow up with fathers who are very uninvolved. Their actions do not convey love. They spend minimal amounts of time with their children; they do not encourage them, and they provide very little guidance.

What is the essence of fatherhood? Is it simply the establishment of biological paternity? Do fathers simply provide a paycheck? Or, does fatherhood encompass much more? Perhaps the more pertinent question is this: What constitutes responsible fatherhood? Responsible fatherhood cannot be proven with a blood test, nor does it consist of simply providing a paycheck. Responsible fatherhood cannot be reduced to a single dimension. It involves commitment, self-sacrifice, integrity, and unconditional love. Responsible fathers are concerned with the well-being of their children, and their desire is to see their children succeed in all areas of life. Ken Canfield, President of the National Center for Fathering, has developed a framework that summarizes the growing body of empirical research and literature on fathering (Canfield, 1999). This four-part framework, which serves as a valuable guide for discussing the essence of responsible fatherhood, consists of the following dimensions: involvement, consistency, awareness, and nurturance. [The Essence of Responsible Fatherhood - Head Start](#)

Lean On Me

A Film About Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

Lean On Me presents compelling real-life stories of grandparents and other relatives raising children as well as issues facing such extended families. The film can be used as direct educational outreach to grandparents, public officials, staff, volunteers and organizational partners. It includes an overview of needs of grandparents raising grandchildren as well as information about where grandparents can find help.

For additional information about grandparents and other relative caregivers raising grandchildren please see <http://www.aarp.org/families/grandparents/>

Marriage & Responsible Fatherhood



**Our Pledge:** The KY T/TA State Office pledges to provide timely, current, and interesting monthly newsletters for the Head Start and Early Head Start communities and others interested in the field. In keeping with our mission to be more "green," we will provide our easy to read newsletter via email.

**We would like to hear from you and encourage your suggestions for newsletter content. Contact the editor:**

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