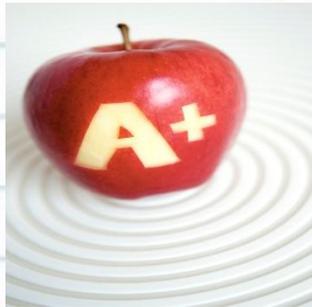




Educational Resource Toolkit

A Reconnecting Families + Dads Initiative



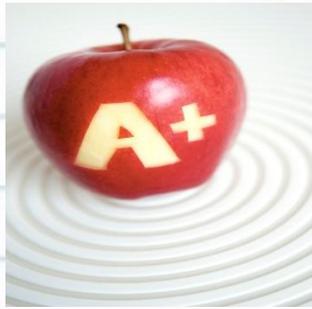
"A world-class education is the single most important factor in determining not just whether our kids can compete for the best jobs but whether America can out-compete countries around the world. America's business leaders understand that when it comes to education, we need to up our game. That's why we're working together to put an outstanding education within reach for every child."

-President Barack Obama, July 18, 2011

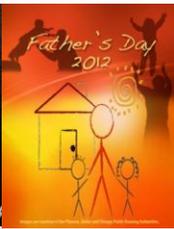


Educational Resource Toolkit

A Reconnecting Families + Dads Initiative



The purpose of this Toolkit is to support the year-round **Reconnecting Families and Dads Initiative (RFD)** further fostering strong relationships between parents and their children. It offers useful educational resources, and can be used by housing authorities as a tool to help parents support their children's academic success.



Our Mission...

In line with HUD's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan Goal 3: *"using housing as a platform to improve the quality of life of our residents,* HUD's mission began with a program that the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) launched in the summer of 2010 . They called it "Fatherhood Initiative Day" and invited fathers to come with their children to a local community center. NYCHA and their partners provided a number of activities, as well as resources such as education information, job training opportunities and health and legal advice. Since that successful day, NYCHA has expanded into a monthly program.

HUD quickly recognized the value of NYCHA's program, and worked to build their own. To date, HUD completed its second successful event, with 300 housing authorities participating in 33 states.

This Toolkit is a continuation of those efforts, and builds upon continuing to engage fathers and their families throughout the year. This initiative is called **Reconnecting Families and Dads (RFD)**. There are many things you can do as a PHA to engage dads, particularly throughout the school year, and we have provided a number of resources to help you get started. Parental engagement strengthens families and builds stronger communities.





Did You Know...

- A 2001 U.S. Department of Education study found that highly involved biological fathers had children who were 43 percent more likely than other children to earn more and 33 percent less likely than other children to repeat a grade.
- Fathers who are involved, nurturing, and playful with their infants have children with higher IQs, as well as better linguistic and cognitive capacities. Pruett, K. (2000). *Father-need*. New York, NY: Broadway Books; Sternberg, K. J. (1997)
- The influence of a father's involvement on academic achievement extends into adolescence and young adulthood. Numerous studies find that an active and nurturing style of fathering is associated with better verbal skills, intellectual functioning, and academic achievement among adolescents. Goldstine, H. S. (1982). Fathers' absence and cognitive development of 12-17 year olds. *Psychological Reports*, 51, 843-848; Nord, C., & West, J. (2001). *Fathers' and mothers' involvement in their children's schools by family type and resident status* [On-line]. Available: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001032>





Federal Resources

Parent Power: *Build the Bridge to Success* (June 2010). This booklet is available in English and Spanish and provides advice to parents on how they can help their children attain success in preschool, elementary school, middle school, and high school. Free copies may be ordered online at www.edpubs.gov or 1-877-433-7827.

My Future My Way: *First Step Toward College* (2010). This workbook provides information for middle and junior high school students about how to prepare for college and how to pay for education beyond high school. Free copies may be ordered online at www.edpubs.gov or 1-877-433-7827.

Countdown to School Success (2011). This month-by-month guide is filled with advice, tools, and online resources you may need to help your children have a school year that is packed with fun and learning. Free copies are available online: <http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success>.

Back to School Checklist:

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbchecklist.pdf?expp=0>

Parent and Family Engagement: <http://www.ed.gov/parent-and-family-engagement>

Stop Bullying.gov: <http://www.stopbullying.gov> Identify, understand and discuss bullying.

Environmental Education: Educating youth to protect the environment. <http://www.epa.gov/education/>

Find Youth Info.gov : Great content on education and afterschool programs <http://www.findyouthinfo.gov>

National Center for Education Statistics
<http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/>





Other Resources

Education.com: Coloring pages, lunch box menus, and tips for surviving the school year

<http://www.education.com/topic/back-to-school/>

Junior Achievement: Empowering youth for student success

<http://www.ja.org/>

GreatSchools: Resources from preschool to college on topics such as printable worksheets, homework help, parenting dilemmas and ways to prep for back to school success! <http://www.greatschools.org> Sign up for their FREE newsletter! Tips for Back to School

<http://www.greatschools.org/back-to-school/preparation/5073-prepare-for-first-day-of-school-video.gs?cpn=20120805weeklysend>

GreatSchools: suggests these surprising secrets of school success

<http://www.greatschools.org/students/academic-skills/1572-surprising-facts-about-academic-learning.gs?cpn=20120812weeklysend>

To set your child up for an awesome school year.

Communities in Schools: <http://www.communitiesinschools.org>

The Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC):

<http://www.nationalpirc.org/pircs/>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children

<http://www.naeyc.org/families>

Step Up for Students: Program providing scholarships to low-income Florida schoolchildren <http://www.stepupforstudents.org/>





Read What Other PHAs are Doing to Celebrate Back to School

➤ **Housing Authority of the City of Warner Robins** helped kids get back to school by stuffing 1,500 book bags with all of the essential school supplies during their Third Annual Back to School Bash on July 20th. The Housing Authority partnered with agencies in the community such as; Wal-Mart, Target, Habitat for Humanity, McDonald's, Walgreen's, Houston Health Care and many more. Vendors were on hand to give out book bags and also provided information about their businesses. Middle Georgia Technical College Barbering School provided free haircuts for the young men and the Warner Robins Police Department provided fingerprinting. The City of Warner Robins also donated funds towards this great event. There was a balloon bounce; face painting and local radio station 97.9 on hand for entertainment. Refreshments of water and hot dogs were also provided by their local partners.





Read What Other PHAs are Doing to Celebrate Back to School

On Saturday July 28th, the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) and its development partner, The Integral Group, sponsored and hosted a Healthy Living Festival at the M. Agnes Jones Elementary School. Fresh produce, school supplies and fun and healthy activities were provided to over 300 adults and children from the community in attendance. A number of exhibitors from key community organizations provided information about community-based services including the Atlanta Regional Planning Commission, Peach State Health Plan, Grady Health Systems, Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority, Atlanta University Center Consortium, Young Men's Leadership Academy, and Atlanta Metro Food and Farm Network along with representatives from the local school and a number of neighborhood and civic organizations.





GreatSchools Tips to help your child succeed

- **Be physically present** – Attending class meetings and volunteering at school increases chances of student success.
- **Facilitate discussion through TV** – Teach your children to become critical thinkers by asking questions about the shows they watch.
- **Communicate** – Studies show parents who use complex language have children with significantly high IQs.
- **Praise for effort** - studies have shown that children who are praised for their work ethic are better at solving critical thinking problems than those praised for ability.
- **Back to nature** – Natural settings increase self-worth and decrease stress.
- **Encourage Reading** – Give your kids access to books, avid readers may gain higher scores in math.
- **Mind-Body Connection** – Physical activity, along with good nutrition facilitates learning.
- **Assign household chores** – Children can gain valuable skills that can be applied to the classroom.





What Parents Can Do

➤ **Walk your child to school.** This can be done not only on the first day, but throughout the year. Report from the Dept. of Education on **School Attendance and Truancy**

Reduction:

http://www.google.com/url?q=http://www.patruancytoolkit.info/providers/291/PrintToolkit-final.pdf&sa=U&ei=KqAiUOu5Jai26QG08oHIBg&ved=0CUBUQFjAC&usg=AFQjCNHkLe6R9WQsapKjipm_4tVIOsGphw

➤ **Visit your child's school.** Get to know the teachers and administrators you and your child will be interacting with during the year.

➤ **Join a local library** and ask about local literacy programs. Reading to your child or having your child read to you for 20 minutes a day improves literacy and early learning skills and increases brain power. Programs like **Reading Rockets** can help <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/25997/>

➤ **Check out the Boys & Girls Club in your area.** The Boys & Girls Clubs' Back to School Campaign is putting school supplies into the hands of Boys and Girl's Club members - http://www.bizjournals.com/prnewswire/press_releases/2012/08/01/DC49911

