

**HERE'S WHAT
PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING ABOUT
THE PROGRAM**

"It's good to be able to share with other fathers who are in the same situation I am in."

"I'm able to learn things from the class and use it to better my situation, both as a father and in my personal life."

"You are able to express yourself and your feelings and wont be judged."

"Class facilitators and guest speakers are able to help you better understand where you are in the system."

"You are able to learn information you may not have gotten elsewhere."

Dad's Voice is a program for fathers whose children are in Marion County's child welfare system. Program activities promote positive outcomes for fathers and their families, such as the potential for increased visitation time with children, better father-child relationships, improved communication between dad and the child's mother, and in some cases, custody of the child. Fathers in Dad's Voice will also have opportunities for various community supports and services.

Dad's Voice is a collaboration of the Indiana and Marion County Departments of Child Services and Fathers and Families Center.



*Protecting our children,
families and future*



Information for Dads

Dad's Voice

Guiding and supporting dads through the child welfare system



Father Engagement

STATISTICS OF FATHERLESS CHILDREN

Fathers matter in the lives of their children. The following statistics feature outcomes of children from unengaged, fatherless households compared to children whose fathers are involved. Children from unengaged fathers are:

- Five times more likely to live in poverty
- Three times more likely to fail in school
- Two times more likely to develop emotional and/or behavioral problems
- Two times more likely to abuse drugs
- Two times more likely to be abused and neglected
- Two times more likely to become involved in crime
- Three times more likely to commit suicide

Source: *Father Facts*, National Fatherhood Initiative

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Your child's Family Case Manager

OR

Fathers and Families Center staff:

Michael Dix—**Fatherhood Engagement Specialist**

544-3880 (office) or 607-7170 (cell)

James Melton—**Fatherhood Services Manager**

713-0169 (office)

FATHER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Dad's Voice is a support and educational group for Marion County fathers. Fathers and Families Center staff facilitate discussions relevant to the father's situation.

- Weekly meetings informing you how the child welfare system (DCS) works
- Information about the legal system and community supports that could benefit you as a father
- Explanation of your rights as a father whose child is in the child welfare system
- Ideas about how to make a difference in your child's life and future
- Meetings designed to help you become not only a better father, but also a better person
- Exposure to other community support services



Fathers matter.

Your child needs you.



YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM EVEN IF YOU.....

- Do not have legal custody of your child
- Have been less involved in your child's life than you would have liked
- Have been kept away due to a job or being pushed away by others involved in your child's life



- Have not been paying, are not current with, or are not required to pay child support
- Did not know you had a child until recently

AS A FATHER WITH A CHILD IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT....

- To have an attorney; if you cannot afford one, you can ask the judge to appoint one for you
- To be notified of all legal hearings involving your child
- To be involved in case planning and decision making
- To ask for visitation with your child