

## ***M.A.N. C.A.V.E***

### **Mission**

*To improve the well-being of children by increasing the number of children growing up with engaged, committed, and responsible fathers or male role models in their lives.*

### **Vision**

*To take a leadership role and commit to fostering the positive relationship of fathers or male role models with their children. . We promote the important roles of both parents - mothers and fathers- and, in doing so, improve the lives of children and families.*

### **Father “Engagement”**

*Makes a commitment to a partnership that is rooted in positive relationships. With involvement, there is an emphasis on being present, with engagement, there is a focus on creating and sustaining ongoing relationships. The intent is to support families and to benefit children’s learning and development.*

- Every child deserves a NURTURING FATHER - A man who actively provides guidance, love and support to enhance the development and growth of children for whom he cares. Become a part of M.A.N. C.A.V.E and be a champion for your children and family.

## **Greater Phoenix Urban League M.A.N.C.A.V.E Fatherhood Program**

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## **The Importance of Fathers in Child Development**



***Engaging  
Fathers and Male Role Models***

***Men All Need to be Caring, Actively-  
Engaged, Vested and Encouraged***

## The Important Role of Fathers in the Lives of Young Children

### Social-Emotional Development:

- \* Quality father-child time increases self-esteem, increased confidence, increases social competence and builds strong life skills (*Amato, 1994*).

### School Readiness and Behavior:

- \* Children show up for school with more of the qualities needed for learning, they are more patient, curious and confident. They are better able to remain in their seats, wait patiently for their teacher, and maintain interest in their own work (*Biller, 1993*).

### Positive Fatherhood Involvement is Linked With: (*Pruett, 2000*)

- \* Lowered levels of disruptive behavior, acting out, depression, and telling lies.
- \* Obeying parents, being kind to others, and being responsible.
- \* Fewer behavioral problems in young boys.
- \* Girls are happier, more confident, and willing to try new things.

### Cognitive, Motor and Verbal Development:

- \* Fathers tend to play more one-on-one, rough and tumble games with their children, which encourages large motor development, it allows children to explore what their bodies can do, and helps them learn to regulate their emotions when engaging in impulsive physical contact (*Rosenberg & Wilcox, 2006*).

### When speaking to children:

Mothers typically simplify their words and speak on the child's level (*Mac Coby, 1999*).

- \* A mothers way facilitates immediate communication with the child.
- \* Mothers tend to be more descriptive, personal, and verbally encouraging.

Fathers are not as inclined to modify their language for the child (*Mac Coby, 1999*).

- \* A fathers way challenges the child to expand their vocab and linguistic skills.
- \* Fathers talk tends to be more brief, directive, and to the point, it also makes greater use of facial expressions and subtle body language.

### In preparing children for the real world:

Fathers tend to see their children, in relation to the rest of the world. While mothers tend to see the rest of the world in relation to their child.

Mothers are often very aware of things from the outside world that could hurt their child, fathers, while not unconcerned with these things, tend to focus on how their child will or will not be prepared for something they might encounter in the world.

Fathers often help children see that particular attitudes and behaviors have certain consequences. Fathers are more likely to tell their children that if they are not nice to others, children will not want to play with them. Generally, fathers help children prepare for the reality and harshness of the real world and mothers help protect against it.

## A CONTRAST OF COMPLEMENTARY PARENTING STYLES

By Randell D. Turner, Ph. D.

### In general, these traits represent a healthy mother's and father's parenting styles:

- \* Fathers' parenting style tends to be less predictable and have a more activating physical element, while mothers tend to follow established patterns of physical interaction.
- \* Fathers are more likely to promote a child's intellectual and social development through physical play, while mothers are more likely to promote intellectual and social development through talking and teaching while caregiving.
- \* Fathers tend to teach through example, emphasizing lessons learned from experiences, while mothers tend to teach with the focus on learning through a pattern of processing.
- \* Fathers tend to play by encouraging the child to higher levels of challenge, while mothers tend to play at the child's level, letting the child direct the play, be in charge, and proceed at his/her own pace.
- \* Fathers tend to make use of their bodies when interacting with their children that follow activation-exploration themes. Mothers tend to play in more conventional ways, employing traditional games, songs and themes.
- \* Fathers tend to offer less immediate support in face of child's frustration, thus promoting adaptive problem-solving skills. Mothers are more likely to intervene more quickly in face of their child's frustration.
- \* Fathers tend to discipline with an interest in the societal bottom-line outcome. In other words, they focus on what their child needs to learn in order to be successful in the everyday world. Mothers tend to discipline with focus on the impact of their child's behavior on emotional relationships.



BECOME AN ENGAGED FATHER  
IN THE GREATER PHOENIX URBAN  
LEAGUE TODAY!