

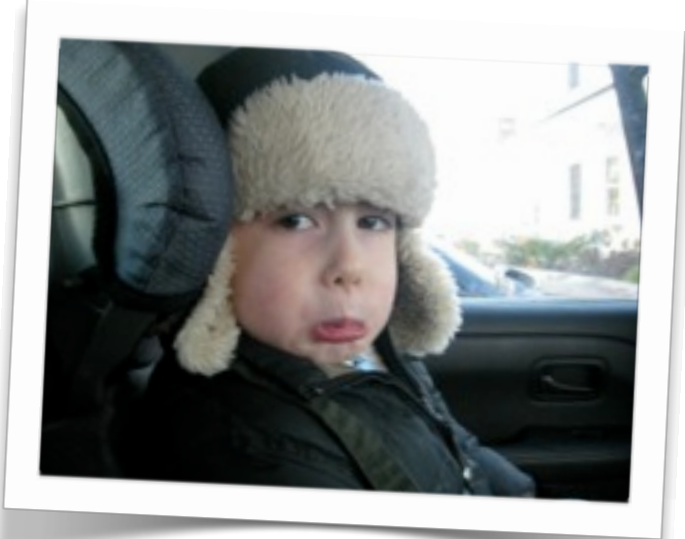
GETTING DADS INVOLVED

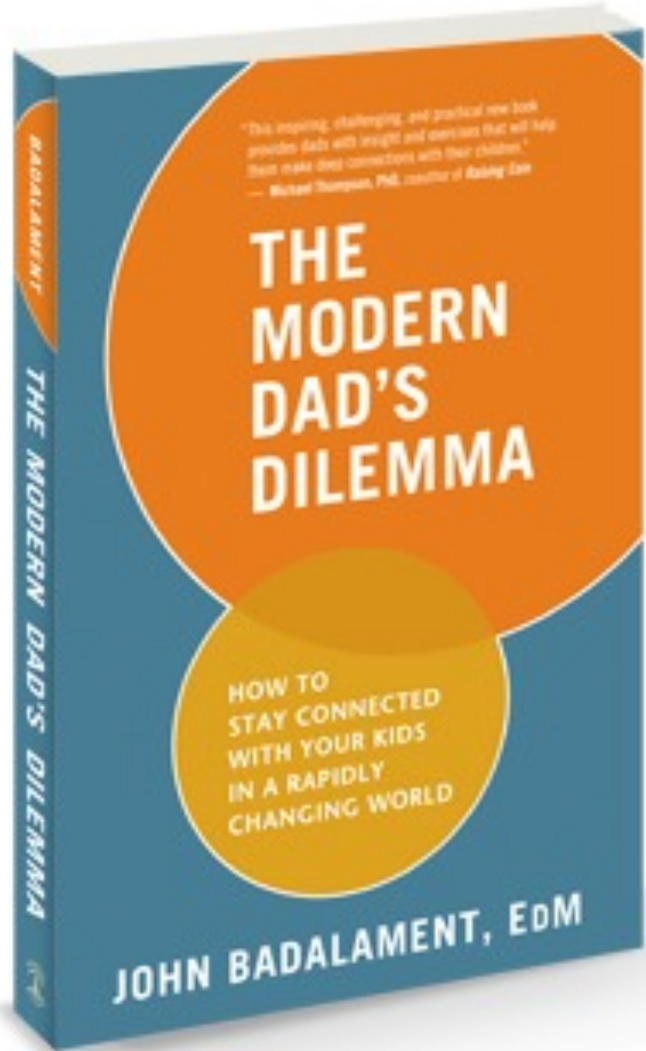
BUILDING THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN DADS & THEIR CHILDREN

By John Badalament, Ed.M.

www.moderndads.net







The Modern Dad's Dilemma

1. Create Your Vision
2. Be the Bridge Between Your Past and Future
3. Be a New Kind of Provider
4. Find Balance Through Ritual
5. Know Your Children
6. Be Known By Your Children



WHY ARE DADS/DAD-FIGURES IMPORTANT TO CHILDREN?

WATCH FILM

All Men Are Sons: Exploring The Legacy of Fatherhood

All Men Are Sons

EXPLORING THE LEGACY OF FATHERHOOD

a documentary film

Directed by John Badalament

Produced by John Badalament & Chad Grochowski

"All Men Are Sons is thoughtful and layered with emotional subtleties that men rarely express, especially in terms of their relationships with their fathers and their sons."

– Los Angeles Times



For information about John Badalament's school workshops, "Modern Dads: How Men's Lives Are Changing and Why it Matters to Families," visit www.johnbadalament.com

WATCH FILM

He Treasures Being A Dad

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF DADS/MALE CAREGIVERS

FATHER-INVOLVEMENT

“An ongoing set of behaviors and actions that together reflect the tone/feeling of the organization and it’s relationship to men.”

-Dr. James Levine, “Getting Men Involved”

DISCUSSION

1. Dads in our our community are...
2. We would have more dads involved here if...
3. I would like dads in our community to start...and stop...

ENGAGING A COMMUNITY OF DADS/ADULT MEN

1. Barriers

- Gender Roles/Assumptions
- Historical Legacy/Schools
 - * Low Expectations
 - * “Parent” as Mother, PA

2. Opportunities

- 2 Way Street
- Classroom, Whole School, PA

STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING DADS/MALE CAREGIVERS

- **Stage One:** Creating a father-friendly environment
- **Stage Two:** Recruiting men to your program
- **Stage Three:** Operating a father's program
- **Stage Four:** Sustaining father involvement

STAGE ONE: FATHER-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

- **Expect men to be involved**
 - Sign-ups, say it loud/often, be welcoming
- **Display images of men**
 - Brochures, walls, special occasions
- **Find out what men want**
 - *Male Interest Survey*
- **Recognize hidden resistance/fears**
 - From staff, mothers and fathers
 - Survey attitudes, discussion groups

STAGE TWO: RECRUITMENT

- **The invisible man in the house**
 - Intakes, observation, trust, survey
- **Staff, men, and women as recruiters**
 - Champions, pounding the pavement
- **Reach the hard to reach**
 - Mailings, writing program, home visits

STAGE THREE: OPERATING A PROGRAM

- **Educational Focus**
 - Family literacy, math/science nights, Dad Day, book clubs
- **Dads-only**
 - Social/fun, sports, discussion group, speakers
- **Project or Task force-based work**
 - Fix-it days, ongoing building/repairs, beautification
- **Recognition**
 - Parent and/or child essay awards, service awards
- **Whole Family**
 - Games day, culturally-focused themes, tournaments
- **Father-Child**
 - Annual Breakfast, Sports nights, Relationship Skills

STAGE FOUR: SUSTAINING INVOLVEMENT

- **Promote the positive**
 - Newsletters, flyers, photos, articles
- **Assess progress regularly**
 - Assessment team, look outside, build on small steps
- **Cultivate leadership**
 - Spread responsibility, identify future leaders, do professional development
- **Build a network**
 - Partnering with programs & associations

WHAT DADS SAY ABOUT SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT*

- Be sure to ask/specific invitations & tasks
- Sign-ups for parent group at events
- Publicize directly to dads
- Plan events that will appeal to men
- Dads get other dads involved
- Prefer to volunteer for short term activity
- Like meetings to be well run, not turn into social hour

EXAMPLE OF A DAD SURVEY

1. Your Name, Contact Info (Email/Phone), Best Times To Reach You...
2. Name/Age of Children:
3. Which of the following activities would you most like to participate in with your child this fall? (please order by preference...1, 2, 3)
 - ___ Father-child Bowling
 - ___ Father-child picnic/barbeque
 - ___ Father-child breakfast
4. Skills/Hobbies
5. Best way and best times to reach you

STARTING A DADS CLUB

- **Establish a mission statement**
 - To build a community of dads who are involved *in the organization or school*
 - To Foster healthy father-child, family relationships
 - To be of service to the organization or school
 - Provide a social and educational outlet for dads
- **Surveys**
- **Kickoff Event, Dad's-only**
- **Sustained Effort**
 - Meetings, Roles/Responsibilities
 - Events **(Fun, Meaningful, Educational)**

CONCLUSIONS

- Educate ourselves and parents about the critical role fathers play
- Examine our current assumptions and expectations about fathers
- Engage fathers in creative ways

MOVING FORWARD

- **One personal goal I have for father involvement is...**
 - *Potential Barriers?*
 - *Support, Resources?*
- **2 Actions I plan to take in next 2 months are...**

INFORMATION ABOUT MATERIALS, SPEAKING, FILMS, ETC.

- Website: **www.moderndads.net**
- Email: **john@moderndads.net**