

### III. For Boys

1. Read to them
2. Hug them
3. Take them out on a date
  - Breakfast on the way to school
  - Take them out to lunch in the middle of the school day sometime
  - Take lunch to them at school
  - Take them out to dinner
  - Take them to a special place – museum, show, the mountains, professional game, etc.
  - Take them shopping for a present for mom
4. Talk to them, and listen to them
5. Play and wrestle with them
6. Provide them with gender-appropriate toys
7. Volunteer to coach in a sport of their choosing, cheer them from the stands, don't embarrass them by getting too competitive



## One Last Thought. . . .

*Everything leaves its impress upon the youthful mind. The countenance is studied, the voice has its influence, and the deportment is closely imitated by them. Fretful and peevish fathers and mothers are giving their children lessons which at some period in their lives they would give all the world, were it theirs, could they unlearn. Children must see in the lives of their parents that consistency which is in accordance with their faith. By leading a consistent life and exercising self-control, parents may mold the characters of their children. {Ellen G. White, The Adventist Home, pg. 322}*



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Love for a Lifetime

## Caring for Our Families



**What a  
Difference a Dad  
Makes**

***Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. (Prov 17:6 NIV)***

### ***1. General contributions dads make to healthy child development.***

Having a loving and nurturing father was as important for a child's happiness, well-being, and social and academic success as having a loving and nurturing mother.

### ***2. Dads grow security, confidence and attachment.***

Infants feel more secure and are more likely to explore the world around them with increased enthusiasm and curiosity when they have an active father in their lives from the first eighteen to twenty-four months of life.

### ***3. Dads increase school, readiness and behavior.***

Children who have an involved father in their lives in the early years show up for school with more of the character qualities needed for learning. They are more patient, curious and confident.

Girls with fathers were happier, more confident and willing to try new things compared to girls without fathers.

### ***4. Dads contribute to stronger cognitive, motor and verbal development.***

Children who had fathers who read to them regularly were more likely to do much better in many important cognitive skill categories than children who didn't have fathers who read to them.



### ***5. Dads help kids make wise life choices.***

Children who feel a closeness and warmth with their father are twice as likely to enter college, 75 percent less likely to have a child in their teen years, 80 percent less likely to be incarcerated and half as likely to show various signs of depression.

Young girls who know the love, tenderness and respect of a father are not as likely to seek the attention and approval of young boys.

The likelihood that a young male will engage in criminal activity doubles if he is raised without a father and triples if he lives in a neighborhood with a high concentration of fatherless families.

### ***6. Dads help curb violence in boys.***

If there is no significant male in the young man's life to teach him how to display his masculinity in socially acceptable ways, he will demand that the community recognize his strength and masculinity by engaging in violence, intimidation and tomcatting.

### ***7. Dads help kids develop empathy and compassion.***

The strongest indicator for a child being empathic later in adulthood was warm father involvement in the early years of the child's life.

### ***8. Dads encourage gender equity.***

Involved fathers pass on this greater respect for women to the next generation via their influence on their sons. In contrast, boys raised in fatherless homes will be less likely to pass on an essential respect for women to the next generation.

### ***9. Dad's help define gender Identity.***

The father plays a pivotal role in a boy's normal development as a male. Dad is more important to the boy's gender-identity development than is Mom.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

### **I. In General**

1. Teach your children to know and love God
2. Care for your wife
  - a. Take a small bit of time each day, if only for a few minutes, to really talk with your wife.
  - b. Set aside at least an evening per week for a date.
  - c. At a bare minimum, take one vacation each year that does not include the kids.
  - d. If the kids are small, find competent, quality baby-sitters for children of various ages
3. Give your kids "quantity" time
4. Give your kids unconditional love and acceptance, even when they fail
5. Give your kids physical affection - hugs, pats, hold hands, etc.
6. Make eye-contact with your kids
7. Share in your child's interests

### **II. For Girls**

1. Read to them
2. Hug them, hold them, hold their hands, kiss them, etc.
3. Take them out on a date, just the two of you.
  - Breakfast on the way to school
  - Take them out to lunch in the middle of the school day sometime
  - Take lunch to them at school
  - Take them out to dinner
  - Take them to a special place – museum, show, the mountains, etc.
  - Take them shopping for a present for mom
4. Talk to them, and listen to them
5. Provide them with gender-appropriate toys
6. Express your love for them
7. Make dinner time a priority

