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Fathering in the context of incarceration

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Fathering in the context of incarceration

Abstract

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<p>Elisabeth Duursma eduursma@uow.edu.au</p> <p>Elisabeth Duursma is a senior lecturer in education at UOW. Her research focuses on father involvement and the impact on child development.</p>	<p>Father engagement in Australian Indigenous families: results from the LSIC study</p> <p>Father involvement in young children’s lives benefits overall development and wellbeing (Cabrera et al., 2000; Fletcher et al., 2014). It is not just the time fathers spent with their children but also the nature of the activities that matter for different aspects of children’s development. Not much is known about father engagement in Australian Indigenous families. This study examined fathers’ attitudes towards being a father, as well father involvement in home learning activities with their young children in Indigenous families. The data used was from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) in Australia. Fathers were asked at child age 5 whether they engaged their child in reading and telling oral stories. Thirty seven per cent of dads reported reading occasionally and 29% often. Fathers were more likely to engage in oral story telling with 39% of fathers reporting to do so occasionally and 33% very often. Multiple regression results demonstrated that both shared bookreading and oral story telling were not significant predictors of children’s language development. However, socioeconomic status, not education, was a significant predictor of whether fathers engaged in bookreading with their children, with higher socioeconomic status associated with more frequent bookreading.</p>
<p>Elisabeth Duursma, Natalia Hanley, and Amy Conley-Wright eduursma@uow.edu.au</p> <p>Elisabeth Duursma is a senior lecturer in education at UOW. Her research focuses on father involvement and the impact on child development.</p> <p>Amy Conley-Wright is a senior lecturer in social work at UOW. Her research focuses on family support for parents and carers of</p>	<p>Workshop Discussion: Fathering in the context of incarceration</p> <p>Currently there are 196 prisoners per 100,000 population in Australia which is a 6% increase within one year (ABS, 2015). Males account for 92% of the prisoners and 46% of all men in prison in Australia have dependent children (AIHW, 2015). This increases to 54% for Indigenous men in prison specifically. Most of the research on male prisoners has focused on supporting their partners and children. However, little is known about how to support male prisoners as parents. Children’s development benefits from having a significant male figure in their life. Therefore it is important to support all fathers, during and after imprisonment in supporting their parenting skills. Many fathers in prison grew up without a father themselves and might lack the parenting skills needed upon return to society. In this workshop we will discuss the issues associated with having an</p>

<p>young children and parenting interventions for prevention of child maltreatment and promotion of child development.</p> <p>Natalia Hanley is a senior lecturer in criminology at UOW. Her research focuses on community corrections, street gangs and criminal justice policy.</p>	<p>incarcerated father. We will also suggest some possible ideas for a research agenda on fathers who are incarcerated or in re-entry phase.</p>
<p>Rakime Elmir</p> <p>r.elmir@westernsydney.edu.au</p> <p>Dr Rakime Elmir is a midwife and lecturer at Western Sydney University. She completed her doctoral degree in 2012 which focused on women's experiences of severe postpartum haemorrhage and emergency hysterectomy. Following on from her doctoral work she explored fathers' experiences of traumatic birth. Rakime has also completed work around midwives' experiences of obstetric emergencies and more recently women's experiences of eating disorders during pregnancy and the perinatal period. Rakime's research interests are qualitative research, high risk pregnancy and birth and mothers' and fathers' experiences of traumatic birth.</p>	<p>“Men don't cry”: Fathers' experiences of birth trauma</p> <p>Background: Although birth is a normal physiological process; it can be associated with certain risks to health and in a rare event may pose a threat to survival of the woman and or her infant. Such events have the potential to impact significantly on the physical and emotional health and well-being of the woman, her partner and the family unit. Traumatic birth experiences and the effects on women have been researched by several scholars, however, little is known of the effects traumatic birth experiences can have on men / fathers where their partner has experienced complications or emergency interventions during the labour and birth.</p> <p>Aim: The aim of this study is to explore men's experiences of labour and birth where their partners have experienced complications, required emergency intervention and or experienced the birth as traumatic.</p> <p>Methods: A qualitative methodology was used to underpin the study. Seventeen fathers participated in either face—to-face, telephone interviews or email correspondences.</p> <p>Findings: Feeling unprepared: distraught and scared, pushed aside: 'I expected to be involved', 'men don't cry', feeling connected and disconnected and building relationships with health professionals.</p> <p>Implications to midwifery practice and policy development: Findings of this study will help create greater awareness among health professionals; particularly midwives and child and family health nurses of the support needed to men following traumatic birth.</p>