



For Immediate Release: July 21, 2021

Contact: Amanda Griswold – Human Development Educator, Crawford County Extension Office, 225 North Beaumont Road, Suite 240, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821, (608) 326-0223

Focus on Fathers August 2021



We know that fathers play a critical role in their child's growth and development. Father involvement is important. For example, the relationship between a father and a child has a deep impact on children's healthy development in language, thinking, physical, and social-emotional learning.

Amanda Griswold, Human Development and Relationships Educator has been working a state-wide needs assessment of fathers. Griswold says that previous research shows that children whose fathers are involved in their daily care, such as feeding, bathing, and playing together, tend to be more confident; and, as children grow older, they enjoy stronger social connections with peers? Furthermore, fathers who care for, nurture, and play with their babies actually raise children with higher IQs and children with better language and cognitive skills.

Griswold also says that the research shows that involved fathers enhance their children's communication skills because they tend to ask children more questions than mothers, which builds vocabulary and conversational skills. Positive father involvement includes direct interaction with children, including caregiving and shared activities. As a result, a group of extension educators are offering a Father centered program. The program is intended for fathers of children between 0-12, but all fathers and father figures are welcome to attend.

Join Amanda Griswold and other extension educators for a special on-line Fatherhood program called **Focus on Fathers**. *Connect with other fathers as well!* Explore parenting tips and learn ways to strengthen your relationship with your child. Topics include:

- August 3 - Relaxing & Enjoying Your Children
- August 10 - Helping Children Stand Up For Themselves
- August 17 - Helping Children Build Their Confidence
- August 24 - Helping Children Deal With Others

Sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings via zoom, in August and will run from 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm. We hope you join us!

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/FocusOnFathersAugust2021> or call the Extension office for more information at 608-326-0223.

Amanda Griswold

Human Development & Relationships Educator
Extension Crawford County
Address: 225 North Beaumont Road, Suite 240, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Email: amanda.griswold@wisc.edu
Phone: 608-326-0223

Extension Crawford County are an EEO Affirmative Action employer, the University of Wisconsin - Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA requirements. If you require reasonable accommodations to participate in this programming, please call as soon as possible.