

Welcome to **THE TRAINING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY**
**HOW ABOUT DAD?
 FATHER ENGAGEMENT BASICS**
While you're waiting...

CONNECT WITH US!

? Icebreaker Question (answer in the chat)
 Who is your favorite fictional father figure (TV, movie, cartoon, etc.)?

🏆 Survey & Certificate of Completion
 Available following the training.

caltrin.org | twitter.com/cal.trin
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Hi, We're CalTrin!

Who we are

- The California Training Institute
- Funded by the State of California, Dept. of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) to provide training to FRCs and CAPCS
- We support child abuse prevention in California through professional development and extended learning.

What we offer

- Live webinars & small group training
- Virtual, self-paced courses
- Job aids & other resources

This training was made possible with funding from the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, and/or recommendations expressed are those of the CEBC/CalTrin and do not necessarily reflect the views of the California Department of Social Services.

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UPCOMING TRAININGS
mark your calendars!

Visit caltrin.org to view and register for upcoming webinars or workshops

- 08/03 | Understanding Your Role in Creating a Trauma-Informed Environment**
- 08/08 | Protective Factor: Parental Resilience**
- 08/09 | More than 'Si Se Puede': Tackling the Mental Health Needs of Latinx Teens**
- 08/17 | Trauma-Informed Leadership: The Balance of Compassion & Accountability**
- 8/22 | Leadership Coffee Chat: Leading with Heart: The Power of Empathy**
- 8/22 | Intervening with Youth with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities who have Experienced Trauma**

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Before We Begin...

DURING	DURING	AFTER
 Access the presentation slides now! The link can be found in the chat.	 Review interactive features for today's session. Locate the controls on the toolbar at the bottom of your screen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mute/Unmute - Chat - Raise hand - Annotate - Breakout rooms 	 Complete the survey at the end of this webinar to receive your Certificate of Attendance.
 This presentation is being recorded.		 A follow-up email will be sent to all participants within two days.

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“How About Dad” Basic Fatherhood Engagement


Roger DeLeon
Minister, Trainer, & Consultant

- Lived expertise in navigating the child welfare and court systems
- Helped to develop Riverside County's Parent Partner program
- Co-Chair of the Community Supporting Task Force of the California Child Welfare Council
- Recipient of the 2023 Casey Family Program's Excellence for Children Award: Birth Father of the Year

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About the Instructor





Roger De Leon- Father of one beautiful adult daughter, Grandfather of three beautiful grandchildren & married 20 wonderful years to my beautiful wife & Best Friend!

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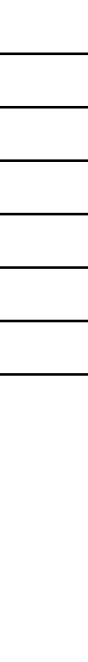
Welcome!

- Your name.
- Agency, role and years.
- Share one or two words that summarize something important that you learned from your father or a father figure.

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Learning Objectives

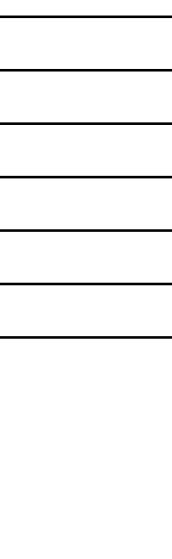
- Understand bias and common misconceptions.
- Review research supporting father involvement.
- Identify best practices, strength-based father engagement and ways to help re-engage absent dads.
- Discuss "Right Now" actions and resources you can take when you return to work!



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Lets start out on the same page about how powerful a dad can be

<https://youtu.be/TUof8a3Cizo>




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Myths and Biases about Fathers


- They don't want to be involved or included
- They are not nurturing.
- They are not capable of caring for infants or children.
- Services are to one parent is sufficient.
- They don't want to spend time with their kids.
- If parents are not together, the father is likely to blame
- They are resistant to services.
- They are not reliable or trustworthy.
- Incapable of being like moms

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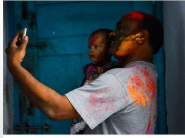
Definition of Bias



Bias (noun) a prejudice or strong opinion (slanted view)



To be biased: Influencing others with your opinions on purpose or unintentional



Everyone is biased at some time

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Let's Look at Facts

FACTS

Children with involved dads are less likely to be mistreated.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of the Census, 2000

JUST THE FACTS

Involved dads improve their children's overall emotional and social well-being.

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative, 2010

JUST THE FACTS

Infant death within the first 28 days of life is four times higher for those with absent fathers than those with involved fathers.


Source: National Fatherhood Initiative, 2010

Just the Facts

Individuals from father absent homes are **279%** more likely to carry guns and deal drugs than peers living with their fathers.

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative, 2010

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WHY MEN MATTER - BOTH NOW AND FOREVER (Faith Based Community)

- When a mother comes to Church, her family will join her at church only 17% of the time; but when a father comes to Church, his family joins him 93% of the time
- Churches overseas report gender gaps of up to 9 women for every adult man in attendance.
- The typical U.S. Congregation draws an adult crowd that's 61% female, 39% male. This gender gap shows up in all age categories.

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Importance of Fathers.


-Children with involved, loving fathers are-

- *More likely to do well in school.*
- *Have healthy self-esteem.*
- *Exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior.*
- *Avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and delinquent activity.*
- *Research also shows that fathers are as important as mothers in their children's outcomes.*



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When Fathers are involved in child welfare services



- Children spend fewer days in foster care.
- More likely to be reunified with parents.
- Protect against future maltreatment.
- Additional perspectives/placement options.
- Social and financial resources.
- Paternal family history and traditions.
- Positive systemic effects beyond the individual family.

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Father Involvement important for both Mothers and Fathers!

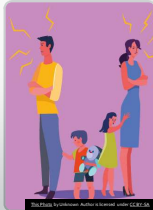


- Encouragement (motivate, esteem)
- Emotional support
- Self care
- Helps reduce stress
- Better overall health
- Access to more resources

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Fathers Accused of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- *Planning for Long-Term Safety*
- *Safety Threat vs. Safety Concern.*
- *Helping support father in having a network for safety.*
 - *Using these supports for initial monitoring.*
- *Understanding the particulars of how and when IPV occurs, and safety planning around those issues.*
 - *Is substance abuse an issue?*
 - *Mental health?*
 - *Job stress?*
 - *Housing instability?*




Remember Dads can be the Victim Also!

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The Dilemma


- "If I allow the children to be around a parent with a violent history and they are hurt, will I be accused of not adequately protecting the children?"
- "If I don't engage the father, am I depriving the child of resources that would enrich their lives and hasten their departure from the CPS system?"
- "Are there enough resources in the department and/or out in the Community for dad?"
- This is where Community Based & Faith Based Organizations can help by providing information about resources that might not be known.



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Best practices for Father Engagement

- Attitude over skill.
- Recognize and acknowledge possible disparities with fathers in our systems.
- Embrace father as a viable placement option
- Help father focus on their strengths.
- Help dad take advantage of support services
- Provide knowledgeable and approachable initial male contact when possible or based on family need..
- Help to educate all on fatherhood data.




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What about Dad's that have not been involved?

Reconnecting-The foundation is to address the bias.

- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Educate
- ❖ Demonstrate
- ❖ Engage




The Richard Burton Trail in the UK

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Helping Dad to Reconnect

- 1) Stability
- 2) Communicate the intention
- 3) Learn about the child/ren
- 4) Meet in a safe environment
- 5) Learn your child/ren's love language
- 6) Don't be "fun-time" dad all the time
- 7) 7. Get on your child's level
- 8) 8. Don't try and change what is working in the child's world.
- 9) 9. Be consistent and predictable
- 10) 10. Keep promises



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Identifying paternal support/networks

Circles of Support Tool.

- 1. Name/Photo/Drawing of family members.
- 2. Who are the people who support you the most?
- 3. Who are the people who support you a little?
- 4. Who are the people who you don't ask for support from but maybe could in the future?
- Who are the people who don't support you and maybe make things harder for you and your family?
- Who are the people in your life who don't know anything about the hard things you've been dealing with?
- Who do the children feel most connected to?
- Who do the children feel some connection with?
- Who already knows everything that happened?
- Who already knows a little bit about the hard things you've been dealing with?

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RIGHT NOW ACTIONS!

- Identify and assess current father involvement on your teams and explore contact with fathers; "How father friendly is your agency?"
- Talk with your youth regarding potential male family members who can serve as role models if no father is present (uncles, grandfathers, cousins, etc.)
- Support mothers in being open to father's involvement in visits/activities and CFT meetings
- Recognize and put aside any bias you may have in working with non-custodial/inactive fathers

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Success Story

<https://youtu.be/h4--sq598nl>

ROGER DE LEON, JR.
BIRTH FATHER AWARD

A dedicated father, grandfather, mentor and passionate advocate for children and families, Roger De Leon, Jr. works as a parent partner with Riverside County's Children Services Division in California. As one of the best parent partners, he helped develop their program, supporting and encouraging families in navigating their systems, after working to establish him as a birth father representative on the California Child Welfare Council and a member of the Parent Partner Advisory Committee. De Leon uses his personal experience engaging the child welfare and court systems to inform his work. De Leon is a member of the Children's Trust Fund Alliance (CTFA) Parent Network. He has collaborated with Casey Family Programs in developing families through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Parent Partner Learning Collaborative and provides consultation to the US Department of Health and Human Services. De Leon helps develop and deliver state-mandated trainings throughout California.

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Resources for Fathers

The National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse
[National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse | Fatherhood.gov](http://NationalResponsibleFatherhoodClearinghouse.Fatherhood.gov)

- is a national resource to support strong fatherhood and families.
- is a resource of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Family Assistance (OFA).
- provides and facilitates research to encourage responsible fatherhood, and engages with families through outreach, events, and virtual trainings


National Fatherhood Initiative
[NFI \(fatherhood.org\)](http://NFI.fatherhood.org)

- Fatherhood programs and resources for human service organizations
- research and evidence-based programs and services give the tools and training needed to be more father-inclusive

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Questions and Close

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Thanks for joining us!

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Survey and certificate in the chat now
- Follow-up email with resources within two days
- Watch your inbox for the next issue of CalTrin Connect



STAY CONNECTED FOR MORE FREE TRAINING & RESOURCES!

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