

June 15, 2026



# AP-OD Family Connections

## Message from AP-OD

June is here, and with it comes a special time to celebrate fathers and father figures.

This month, we want to honor all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, stepfathers, and father figures who show up every day for the children in their lives. Your presence, your patience, and your love help lay the foundation for children's growth and well-being.

As Javier, one of our AP-OD parents, so beautifully shared, "We are their superheroes. We are the people they look up to. We are their example." That kind of everyday commitment to be present, stay engaged, and show up with love is one of the greatest gifts a father can give.

This issue, we're sharing research on the power of father involvement, a special Father's Day activity to try at home, and a spotlight on a dad whose AP-OD journey changed the way he shows up for his family.

**To every father and father-figure in our community, thank you for your presence, your care, and the lasting difference you make in your child's life.**



# AP-OD Parent Spotlight



## Showing Up for His Family

Javier, a father of four from New York City, will be the first to tell you he wasn't sure the AP-OD program was for him. Life in NYC moves fast, and between work and family responsibilities, he wasn't sure he could make the time. It only took one session to change his mind. Javier shares,

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"It became 11 weeks that I enjoyed every Friday — I looked forward to that 5:30 PM every week. We met great people, shared the same stories, and learned from each other."

Today, the moment he gets home, he disconnects from work and focuses on being present with his children, especially his five-year-old Sarah, who is always excited to tell him about her day. Javier reflects,

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"Time is one of the most valuable things we have in life, but we can never get it back. That quality time — helping with homework, listening, checking in on how their day was — it changed not only my world, but the whole interaction my kids and I have."

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# Tip of the Month



## Dads Make a Difference: The Impact of Engaged Fathers

This Father's Day, we're celebrating something that AP-OD families already know from experience: fathers and father figures play a powerful role in their child's growth and development.

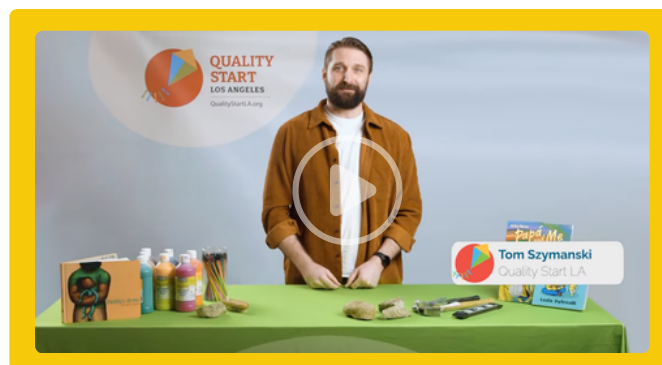
Research shows that a father's active participation and emotional engagement with his children leads to improved social, emotional, academic, and behavioral outcomes. These positive effects are seen whether fathers live with their children or not.

### Here are just a few of the findings that stand out:

- More frequent father engagement in a child's home literacy and education results in higher achievement levels in reading and math.
- Father involvement leads to better problem-solving skills, greater empathy, stress tolerance, and moral sensitivity.
- High levels of dad involvement are correlated with greater sociability and confidence in children.

And perhaps most importantly, research shows that the quality of the father-child relationship matters more than the number of hours spent together. It's not about being perfect. It's about being present, engaged, and making the most of the everyday moments together.

Learn more at [The Fatherhood Project](#)



Try This Father's Day Activity from [Quality Start Los Angeles \(QSLA\)](#)!

Looking for a fun, meaningful way to celebrate? Try this simple rock painting craft with your child — a one-of-a-kind gift dad will treasure!

1. Go outside together and find medium to large rocks with flatter sides (a park, beach, or backyard all work great!)
2. Clean and dry the rocks.
3. Help your child draw or paint something that reminds them of their dad or father figure.
4. Pair it with a read-aloud — try *Papa and Me* by Arthur Dorros or *Dad By My Side* by Soosh for a cozy storytime together.

[Download the QSLA Father's Day Activity Guide](#)

[Watch the activity video](#)

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# Upcoming Events and Workshops



**Common Sense Media presents: Summer Survival Guide: Balancing Screens and Skills for a Fun-Filled Break**

**Wednesday, June 17, 2026 | 4 pm PT / 5pm MT / 7 pm ET**

Summer changes kids' screen habits fast. To help parents prepare, [Common Sense Media](#) is teaming up with [Aura Parents](#) for a webinar that pairs their new research on summer screen trends with our age-based guidance. Families will walk away with practical tips on how to relax routines without losing boundaries, keep learning happening without making summer feel like school, and make screen use more intentional. Join us for a live webinar with a Q&A to help your family find balance and build healthy habits.

Can't make the live webinar? Register anyway to access the recording on demand shortly after.

[Register](#)

**national  
collaborative  
for infants  
& toddlers**

**NCIT presents: Paternity Leave – Dads Need Leave Too!**

**Jun 25, 2026 | 11:00 am PT / 12 pm MT / 2 pm ET**

This Father's Day, NCIT is recognizing the important role fathers and partners play in helping infants and toddlers thrive. Paid leave gives dads time to bond with their children, support mothers during recovery, and establish strong caregiving relationships from the very beginning. Featuring policy experts, advocates, and a father sharing his personal experience navigating leave and caregiving.

[Register](#)

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# Upcoming Events and Workshops



**The California Early Math Project presents: Early STEAM Summer Symposium: The Role of the Arts in Early STEAM**

**Friday, June 26, 2026 | 9 am – 2 pm PT / 10 am – 3 pm MT / 12 pm – 5 pm ET**

Explore fun, hands-on ideas for integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) into early learning! Join this FREE virtual symposium featuring engaging ideas, expert-led sessions, and practical activities for families with young children.

[Register](#)

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## Community Building

### Celebrating the Dads in Our Lives

Father's Day is just around the corner, and this month we want to celebrate all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and father figures who show up every day for their little ones!

A father's presence, love, and guidance is irreplaceable. Whether it's bedtime stories, helping with homework, Saturday morning walks, or simply sharing everyday time — those moments matter more than words can say.

This month, we're inviting you to celebrate the special men in your lives. **Tag us on Instagram or Facebook with a photo of the dad or father figure in your family and tell us: "One thing I love about the father figure in my child's life is \_\_\_\_."**

Use the hashtag #APODDads and let's fill our community feed with love this Father's Day!

Find us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to join the conversation!



[Follow us on Instagram](#)



[Follow us on facebook](#)



**Saying** "What is well learned is never lost."