

A black silhouette of a man and a young child walking together, holding hands. The man is on the left, and the child is on the right. A large, vibrant rainbow arches over them from the top right corner. The background is white. In the bottom left corner, the text 'Copyright © 2015' is visible.

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The results show that after participating in Parc Prisons family intervention and education program, the number of prisoners' children that

- This displays a definite need for these interventions (HM Inspectorate of Prisons, 2017, cited in Morgan-Armstrong, 2018).

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LITERACY AND DADS

How and why to help your child, both academically and emotionally by putting a plan in place that focuses on the needs and wants of every child as an individual, helping them stay connected with family when it is not always easily possible.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

A Good Childhood explored just how important it is for children to have a relationship with their fathers. We understand that it is not absolutely possible in every situation, however, it is important to have someone help when these circumstances are difficult, not only for the child's wellbeing but socially too. It states, 'children develop better friendships, more empathy, higher self-esteem, better life satisfaction and higher educational achievement' (Layard and Dunn, 2009, p18).

However, children that have no or a bad relationship with their fathers are a lot more angry, aggressive and struggle to control their emotions – this being an instant or a delayed impact.

Children who have a parent in prison are three times more likely to suffer mental health issues (Murray and Farrington, 2008). To build on this, it is widely known that children succeed in school when they have parents that are involved with their education (Nutbrown et al, 2017).

When considering the involvement with Dads and literacy, Nutbrown et al explain that it is mainly a lack of confidence that contributes to why few Dads actually support children with literacy activities (Nutbrown et al, 2017). They also state that parent literacy programs are typically involve mothers. Globally there are a number of programs, all fairly new that consciously target Dads. This is because when Dads do have an involvement with children's literacy and learning, research shows it has a profoundly positive effect on a child's academic and emotional development (Nutbrown et al, 2017). Across Prisons in Wales and England, ninety-five per cent of prisoners are male with roughly two hundred thousand of these having children (Ministry of Justice, 2012, cited in Nutbrown et al, 2017). Knowing this, it was also reported that mothers of children with a Dad in prison said longer visiting hours in a more child friendly environment was needed for a better life for their child (Fahmey and Berman, 2012, cited in Nutbrown et al, 2017). Education in prison does also have a positive effect on the chances of less reoffending (Coates, 2016).



Child Trends, (2016)

HOW WE CAN HELP

The need to maintain family relationships, better educated and emotionally stable children is a focus in which led to the introduction of LAD. Literacy and Dads, an initiative that focuses on literacy and prisoner's families. Some initiatives are already in place that focus on Dads reading with children during visiting hours, however LAD is a program designed to allow children to bring their homework in to the prison, in a child friendly, positive family environment and gives Dads the opportunities to help their child complete their homework. There are books, resources and staff around to ensure they are equipped in the best environment possible. A key worker would contact the school prior to the child's visit to discuss the nature of the homework, ensuring then that the prisoner and family play worker or Family Link Officers were prepared. The prison staff member and the Dad would also discuss the homework, to ensure the Dad was comfortable in being able to help. This being due to the number of prisoners that have admitted to needing help themselves with reading and writing.