



HOOTMAIL

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE NYC EARLYLEARN COMMUNITY

MARCH 28, 2014 ATTACHMENTS INDEX

SILENT CRISIS: A FORUM ON THE IMPACT OF CHRONIC STRESS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING (PAGES 2-5)

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Press Release:



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NMPP's Federal Identification Number: 13-378-2555

For Immediate Release

Media Breakfast from 8AM to 9AM. Members of the media and community friends invited!

A Special Invitation to an Important Conversation on Children and Wellness

Please join us on Friday, April 11, from 8:30AM to 12:30PM when Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership and Central Harlem Healthy Start come together with Healthy Start-Brooklyn and with Columbia University -Downstate Healthy Start to engage the community in a conversation on the growing body of research on early brain development. The event will take place in the first floor auditorium of the Oberia Dempsey Center located at 127 West 127th Street, between Lenox & Seventh Aves.

Paul Yellin, FAAP, MD is one of the foremost experts in the nation on the impact of trauma and chronic stress on early childhood learning and development will be the keynote speaker. He is the Founder of The Yellin Center, Dr. Yellin was a neonatal expert before he decided to devote his energies to working with schools, governments, and individuals to discover ways to better understand how to help people learn to learn. His compassionate approaches have made him an advocate of the less fortunate and his website tells individuals how they can call him at no cost.

The audience will also hear remarks from **Renee Wilson-Simmons DrPH**, a leading child and adolescent expert, and the Director of The National Center for Children in Poverty, at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, a public policy center on the frontline of battling

poverty, one of the leading causes of trauma and chronic stress. In addition, **Evelyn Blanck, LCSW**, Associate Executive Director of the NY Center for Child Development, will share remarks. Ms. Blanck is also Co-President of the New York Zero to Three Network and serves as Work Group Chair of the NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Work Group, an advisory group of the NYCDOMH which recently published a White Paper entitled, *Promoting Mental Health Development of New York's Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers: Advancing the Agenda, Sustaining the Gains*. The first Q & A of respected experts will be facilitated by **Ashanti Chimurenga, J.D.**, who leads the Central Harlem Healthy Start at Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership. Ms. Chimurenga was a public school principal, criminal defense lawyer, and juvenile justice advocate and travelled globally to organize communities against human rights abuse.

In the second half of the Community Conversation, **Aletha Maybank, M.D., MPH**, an African American physician featured in the media for her early childhood initiative to expose children to black female doctors, will facilitate an interactive and participatory dialogue between the audience and a panel of practitioners and advocates. During the audience-driven panel discussion conversation, members will exchange perspectives, best practices and concrete interventions that strengthen family resilience and lead to positive behavioral and social change outcomes. Mounting evidence clearly shows that with the proper supports children can cope effectively and can overcome and reverse negative outcomes. Dr. Maybank is an Asst. Commissioner with the NYCDOMH in Brooklyn and the leader of the Healthy Start Brooklyn program. She will help the panel and the audience lay out some of the framework and vision for the work ahead. The inclusive format is designed to leave participants feeling engaged, empowered, and energized to respond to the compelling evidence presented by conference experts in the first section of the program.

Among the confirmed panelists for the participatory session of the program include the following presenters: **Lena Green, MSW**, Manager of Mental Health Strategic Initiatives, and a licensed social worker with Nurse-Family Partnership, a nationally recognized evidence-based home visitation model; **Quentin Walcott**, Co-Director of CONNECTNyc, a provider of technical assistance and capacity building expertise on child welfare and domestic violence and community building within the faith based community. CONNECT counsels males who have a history of violence and runs groups for male providers who support other males; **Elizabeth Bassano, LCSW-R**, Director of Maternal Health and Parenting at Inwood House, which has been dedicated to providing parent education and support to pregnant and impoverished teens for many decades; and **Juan Carlos Dumas, PhD**, a clinical psychologist and author of three books. Dr. Dumas has consulted with the National Head Start Assn and is a Board Certified Clinical Psychopathologist, Medical Psychotherapist and Psychodiagnostician.

Mario Drummonds, MS., LCSW, MBA, Executive Director of the Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership, and a member of President Obama's *Childhood Obesity Task Force*; **Joyce Moon-Howard, PhD**, Professor at Columbia Univ. and Director of Columbia University-Downstate Healthy Start will offer **Opening Remarks**; along with **Rashidah White**, 1st Vice President of the Community Education Council, Community School District Five in Harlem, of NYC Public Schools.

An Epic Problem Caused by Disparities in the Social Determinants of Health

- **Over 500, 000 children in NYC are under the age of five years old**

- **1 in 10 children in Harlem are in foster care system where infants spend an avg. 27 months**
- **U.S. ranks #49 in maternal mortality and women of color account for the greatest spike**
- **The Achievement Gap shows that most children of color do not read on grade level.**

Your Presence is One Part of the Solution

We have understood the problem and worked to solve it. Now we must understand what the research shows about the impact of some of those problems. Join us on April 11 as we stay current with the research and the practices that touch our work and build our toolkit to do an even better job. Please email or call us at: mdrummonds@msn.com (Exec. Director of NMPP); or achimurenga@gmail.com (Program Director of CHHS); or give us a call at 212-665-2600, (ext. 308 and 324 respectively)



POVERTY violence HEALTH
ABUSE drugs
UNEMPLOYMENT housing
food

Friday, April 11, 2014

SILENT
CRISIS

A forum on the impact of chronic stress and trauma on early childhood learning and development

Child development is an important determinant of health over the life course: children's developmental trajectories are shaped by sources of resilience as well as vulnerability. Research on brain development finds that trauma and chronic stress can have potential change on the brain's "architecture" and its harmonious evolution.

This is a silent crisis that needs to be better understood and this forum will offer a diverse panel of experts, providers and advocates.

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When: Friday, April 11, 2014

9 am – 12:30 pm

Registration and continental breakfast from 8:30–9:00 am

Where: Oberia Dempsey Multi-Service Center

127 West 127 Street (between Lenox and 7th Avenues)

RSVP: <https://april11-silentcrisis.eventbrite.com>,
email april11communityconversation@gmail.com
or call 212.665.2600

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This event is sponsored by Healthy Start Brooklyn, Central Harlem Healthy Start and Columbia Univ. Mailman School of Public Health Downstate NY Healthy Start in collaboration with the Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership

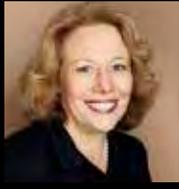
Guest Speakers



KEYNOTE
Paul Yellin, MD
Founder
Yellin Center for Mind,
Brain and Education



Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Brooklyn District
Public Health Office
NYC Dept. of Health and
Mental Hygiene



Evelyn J. Blanck, LCSW
Associate Executive Director
NY Center for Child Development
Co-President, New York Zero to
Three Network



Renee Wilson-Simmons, DrPH
Director
The National Center for Children in Poverty
Columbia Univ. Mailman School of Public
Health Downstate NY Healthy Start



- FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL -

Creative services provided by NIMPP's Social Health Marketing Group, 212 665-2600 x 309/Black Cat Design: www.blackcatdesign.biz



EarlyLearn New York City
Administration for Children Services
Division of Early Care and Education
City Wide Head Start Policy Council/ Family and Community Engagement



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND



ANNUAL EDUCATION FAIR
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD 2014
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
150 WILLIAM STREET - 19TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10038



- Representatives from CUNY colleges in the 5 boroughs will participate in a panel discussion.
- Information about education programs including the **NEW GED**, ESL, Computer Skills and additional training programs.
- Admissions process and the support that is available especially for people who are on public assistance.
- COPE Program



**Administration for Children's Services
Bronx Borough Offices & The Bronx Vision**

Presents

The 3rd Annual Father's Resource Fair

**Be a part of our movement and contribute to a Father's success!
TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD STRONGER FAMILIES.**

**Friday, April 11, 2014
1200 Waters Place, 2nd floor
Bronx, New York 10461
10am to 3pm**

"Every Child Deserves a Dad"

We all have busy lives and everyone can use extra support. Come out, do your part and find out what services are available for fathers in our communities. Our aim is to provide a plethora of meaningful resources for fathers, ACS staff and community service agencies for fathers who are directly or indirectly involved in the lives of their children.

The Bronx Vision is comprised of a group of dedicated men from NYC Administration for Children's Services, who are strategically engaging fathers in the community by linking them to educational and vocational opportunities, along with beneficial services.

All Dads Invited:

- **Job and educational opportunities**
- **Health resources**

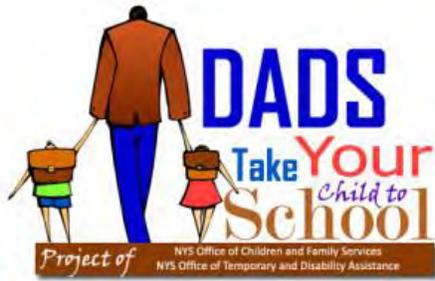
Contacts:

Shaun Blayton at 718-933-2702
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Clyde Wilkinson at 718-933-6981
Maria Biondo at 718-319-7240



Dads Take Your Child to School

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/dtyctsnny/>



[Dads Take Your Child to School](#) is an initiative taking place across New York State that encourages fathers and father-figures to take their children to school and make a commitment to be involved in their children's education. Taking place in September of each year, it is a one-day event that can catalyze father involvement for the rest of the school year. Schools and community organizations use this opportunity to get to know the fathers of their students, and to encourage them to be involved by signing up for PTAs, Policy Councils, and volunteer opportunities like hall monitoring, career day, or beautification projects. As well, schools could distribute information and resources to encourage parent involvement in education, such as reading guides.

You can learn more at the [Dads Take Your Child to School Website](#). The members of the Stronger Families New York Coalition take active roles planning and providing support for this important initiative. Coalition partners that are supporting Dads Take Your Child to School include:

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
- US Dept of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families, Region II
- New York State Community Action Association
- NYS Parent Education Partnership/Prevent Child Abuse NY
- New York City Departments of Education, Youth and Community Development, Human Resource Administration, and NYC Dads.
- Fathers Incorporated

****Stay tuned as a new Dad's Take Your Child to School Website will be launched soon**



Dads Take Your Child To School (DTYCTS) began in New York State during the fall 2006 in recognition that father involvement is a vital protective factor that can produce tremendous positive outcomes, and alter a child’s life course trajectory particularly in communities that face many risk factors for children. Since 2006, the goal of engaging and highlighting the participation of dads and father figures’ at schools is needed, wanted, and welcomed. It has gained attention and grown tremendously. Although, DTYCTS is an annual event, participating sites are encouraged to engage dads and father figures throughout the year. Receiving feedback and providing success stories is critical for planning future events.

An estimate of 4,147 dads participated in DTYCTS Day 2012, and the following represents a summary of the event data.

Registration Data DTYCTS Day 2012 (approximate):

Education

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| NYC Schools: | 153 |
| Upstate & Long Island Schools: | 45 |
| NYS Head Start sites: | <u>172</u> |
| Total Educational Sites: | 370 |

Community

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Community Partners: | 69 |
|---------------------|----|

Total Participation in DTYCTS Day 2012 439 (approximate)

Participant Survey

A DTYCTS Day follow-up survey was distributed to all registered sites. The survey information will be used to evaluate the ongoing satisfaction of the participating sites, improve recruitment strategies, increase site retention/engagement with the DTYCTS events, and advance the effectiveness of the DTYCTS Day event.

The DTYCTS Day participant survey was released on October 15, 2012 and scheduled to close November 1, 2012. While many sites conducted DTYCTS during the month of October; the survey was extended

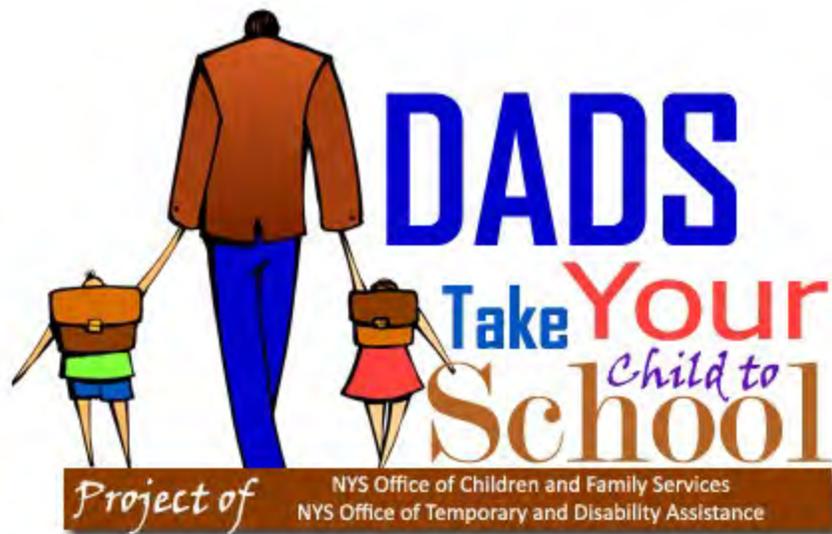
due to Super storm Sandy. A redistribution of the survey was done, and was subsequently closed December 18, 2012. The event had robust registration and participation, however only **68** participating sites completed the follow up survey.

DTYCTS Day 2012 Strengths (via survey results)

- Sites utilized the event website to register
- The website contained help resources for event planning at the sites
- Many sites integrated activities during year to promote DTYCTS Day
 - Dad recruitment opportunities
 - Solicitation activities at the site for refreshments for the day of the event
 - Requests from sponsors for educational material
- Sites utilized most frequently the following organizing themes:
 - Integrating Literacy Improvement and Homework Help was most popular theme
 - School Safety and Volunteer Opportunities
- Follow-up events to ensure father engagement focused on
 - Inviting dads back to volunteer at the school/Head Start
 - Planning another event for dads and kids
- Scholastics book distribution was effective to promote reading and engagement
 - 21 Head Start programs in the upstate area received books from scholastic
 - Several NYC Head Start programs and schools received books however, the number is not documented

DTYCTS Day Recommendations

- Decide and Plan early for participation in DTYCTS Day;
- Register each site for DTYCTS Day to ensure that your participation is accurately counted (registration means that you will be hosting a event for fathers or father figures);
- Complete the survey to ensure that your experience and input is collected and included for the event assessment;
- Promote your event within your community (local paper, cable station, political representative);
- Capture your event through pictures or video and share with the DTYCTS Day Planning Committee;



Organizing Guide

Partners

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Region II

Stronger Families New York Coalition

New York State Community Action Association

New York State Parent Education Partnership/Prevent Child Abuse New York

Fathers Incorporated

New York City Partners:

- Administration for Children Services
- Mayor's Fatherhood Initiative
- Department of Education
- Department of Youth and Community Development
- Human Resources Administration

And countless other partners including dads, schools, school districts, Head Starts, local and state elected officials, and faith and community based organizations.



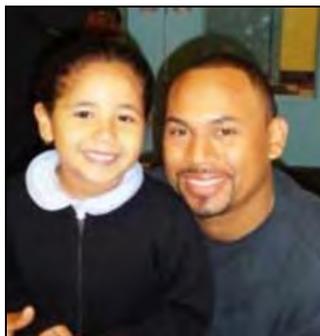
Staff members from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and the Administration for Children Services (ACS) with dads at West Harlem Head Start

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Family Advocate

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What is “Dads Take Your Child to School?”



Dads Take Your Child to School is an annual event held throughout New York State celebrating the special relationship that fathers have with their children. It occurs at the beginning of the school year: inviting fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, and other significant male caregivers to accompany their child(ren) to school on a specific day, and encouraging them to make a commitment to participate in their child(ren)’s education throughout the year.

Dads Take Your Child to School started with just one school in 2006. This initiative continues to expand to schools and Head Start programs throughout New York State. Dads Take Your Child to School encourages fathers and father-figures to take their children to school and make a commitment to be involved in their children’s education.

How Does it Work?

- Fathers and other significant male caregivers are encouraged to arrive with their children 15 to 30 minutes before the start of class.
- They will be welcomed as guests at their children’s school or Head Start program. Each location is responsible for planning their own program and fun activities to welcome dads.



A father who actively participates in the educational and social development life of a child is invaluable and irreplaceable.

Why is Dads Take Your Child to School Important?

Dads Matter

Fathers have an undeniable effect on their children. Studies overwhelmingly show that positive paternal involvement is associated with improvements in children's:

- academic performance,
- cognitive development,
- behavior,
- psychosocial development,
- health and wellbeing,
- household economics, and
- general/overall parenting quality.

One Day Can Impact a Whole Year

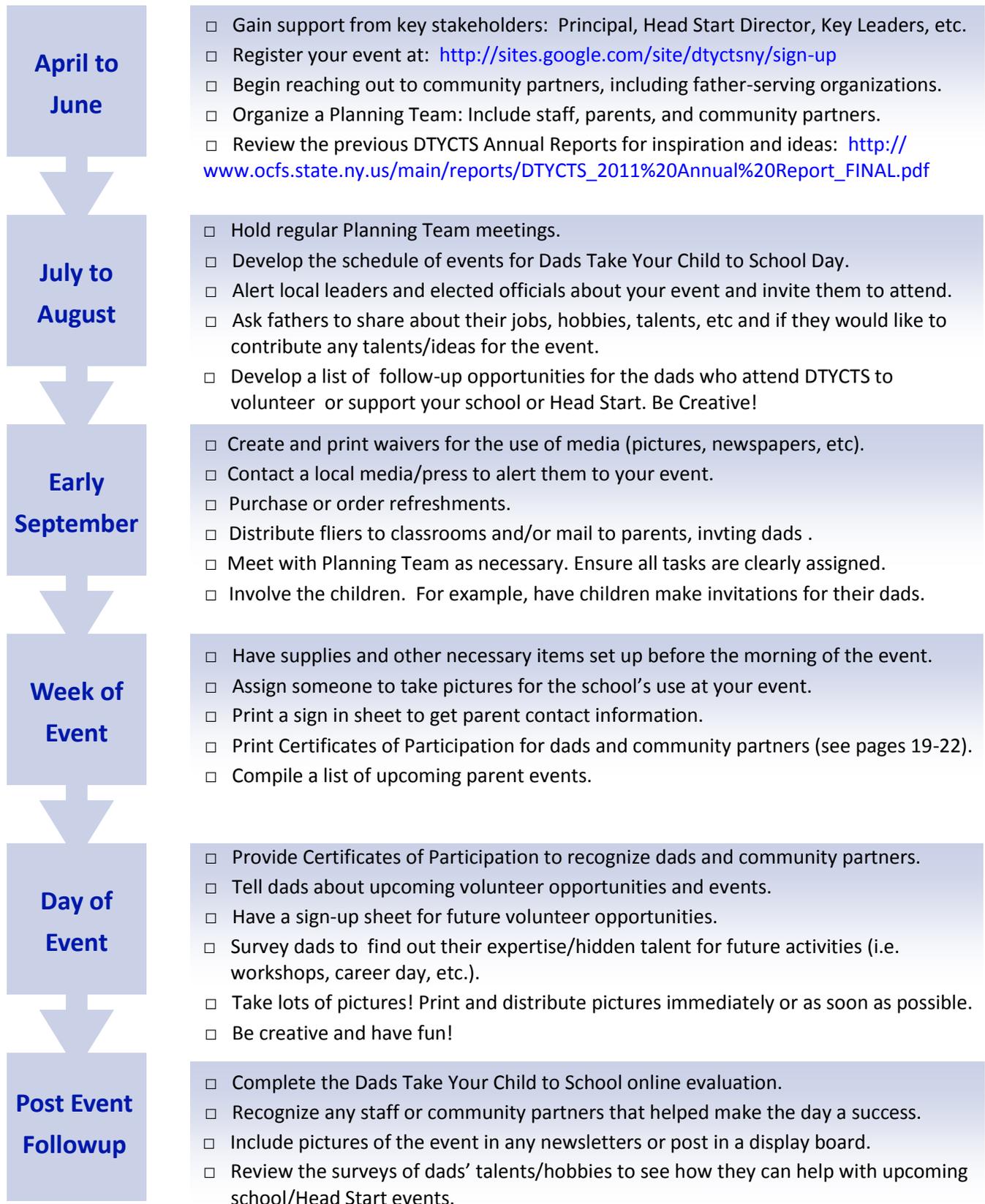
Dads Take Your Child to School welcomes dads and male role models into schools and Head Start for a day, celebrating the special role they have, and encouraging them to remain involved throughout the school year.



“Actively involved fathers are a positive force in the lives of their children and their community. When fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their education, their children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior.”

- Joyce A. Thomas , Regional Administrator,
Administration for Children and Families, Region II

Sample Planning Timeline



There is no one way to plan a Dads Take Your Children to School Day. Each school and Head Start will have to determine:

1. How much time do you have for the event (i.e., only some time in the morning or up to a whole day)?
2. What resources do you have access to?
3. What will work best for your particular school/Head Start and students?

Event Preparation Ideas

Prepare early

- Start preparing the spring prior to the fall event. Remind presenters, volunteers, and community partners over the summer with emails and/or phone calls.
- Meet with school staff early and clearly define the responsibilities and expectations of staff for the event.
- Talk about the day and its importance during the Parent Orientation at the start of the school year.
- Be prepared with follow-up activities and next steps before the event happens.



Outreach to dads

- Create packets for fathers and other significant male caregivers with information about your school or Head Start program and any special initiatives for the coming year.
- Send informational flyers home advertising and encouraging dads to participate in the event.
- Educate fathers about the importance of their involvement in school. Use some of the facts listed previously in this guide.

Involve students

- Think about how your school or Head Start can involve students to make the day more meaningful. For example, some Head Starts had the students make muffins as a classroom activity the day before the event and were able to have muffins for breakfast with their dads.

Strengthen community partnerships

- Partner with a fatherhood program in your area, and ask them to provide a short program for fathers during the event. Contact info can be found on the DTYCTS website: <http://sites.google.com/site/dtyctsny/>
- Invite elected officials, dignitaries, or local VIPs to greet parents and caregivers as they bring their child to class.

Planning Tip:

If dads are unavailable to attend the event, invite grandfathers, foster fathers, step-fathers, uncles, cousins, big brothers, significant male caregivers or male friends of the family.

Ideas for Day of Event

Be organized

- Have a sign-in sheet so that you can capture who came and how many dads participated.
- Have additional sign-ups for future volunteer opportunities or other events.
- Survey dads to find out their expertise/hidden talent for future activities (i.e. workshops, career day, etc.). Then, go through the surveys each month to see how the dads can help with upcoming events.
- Review the surveys each month to see how dads can help with upcoming events, or plan events inspired by their talents.



Be social

- Plan a short program in a meeting room or auditorium for parents after they have dropped off their children. If possible include coffee, juice, and cookies.
- Allow time for the parents that are coming to the school to meet each other.
- Encourage dads to bring their child to school, even if they have to leave right away, but also offer breakfast and other activities for those who choose to stay.



Have fun!

- If possible, set up a picture booth for parents to take pictures with their children. Print the pictures during the program so that dads can take them home.
- Think outside the box! For example, one school created a "Victory Lap" where fathers and their children walked around the school (inside because it was raining) chanting "I'm glad you're my kid," and "I'm glad you're my Dad." Another school had fathers make the morning announcements over the PA system.



Commemorate

- Provide commitment cards for fathers that would like to be more involved to list specific examples of how they could help at the school.
- Create a letter, note, button, sticker, or t-shirt that says "I took my child to school today" to pass out to parents as they take their children to school.
- Provide Certificates of Participation to recognize dads.

"The Children were proud of their dads and dads were proud of themselves."

Involving Fathers Throughout the Year

Roles at School

- Encourage and ask fathers to participate in PTA or Head Start Policy Council.
- Encourage fathers to volunteer as hall monitors in the school.
- Involve men in school beautification projects such as landscaping, painting, refurbishing, or building project at the school.
- Remember that not all dads want to do hands-on projects. Consider how you could use other skills such as accounting, medical professions, or others.



Helping with School Events

- Recruit men to speak to students about their career or job.
- Ask fathers for help in putting on a student talent showcase: helping with programs, staging, set building, lighting, ushering, and other preparations.
- Encourage fathers to read to classes and encourage them to continue reading with their child at home.
- Organize a father-daughter dance to help fathers bond with their daughters.

Community Building/Strengthening

- Bring in Dads, the police department, and local bike shops to encourage bike safety, teach rules of the road, give bike tune-ups, and hold riding proficiency competitions.
- Develop a lunch buddies or breakfast buddies program where fathers or mentors eat breakfast or lunch with their child/mentee weekly or monthly.
- Ask fathers to volunteer at a Family Festival, helping with tickets, rides, games, concessions, etc.
- Take families out to a semi-professional or college ballgame. Consider making it a daddy-daughter or father-son outing.
- Organize a Dads vs. teachers sports competition that students can attend.



Sample Program Themes

Dads Take Your Children to School provides a unique opportunity to capture the attention of fathers about the many services available for them and their families. The following appendices are examples of different themes to incorporate into the event.

Financial Literacy & Asset Building (Appendix A)

Talk to fathers about the many services available to build stronger money management skills, access affordable banking products for themselves or their children, learn about tax refunds and free tax preparation services, as well as programs to assist in addressing credit /debt issues or receiving match funding for savings efforts.

Job Development & Educational Advancement (Appendix B)

Educational advancement and job skill development are keys to success and alleviating poverty. Low-skill workers and families with low levels of education were especially hurt during the economic downturn. DTYCTS provides an opportunity for schools and Head Starts to provide information for fathers who would like to continue their education and/or obtain more job skills. In addition to alleviating financial stress, achieving educational and professional goals raises self-confidence levels for dads.

Improving Literacy & Homework Help (Appendix C)

When fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their education, children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Even when fathers do not share a home with their children, their active involvement can have a lasting and positive impact. There are countless ways for fathers to be involved in their child's education at all ages.

Health & Wellness for Men & Families (Appendix D)

Nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher in African American and Hispanic communities, where nearly 40% of the children are overweight or obese. Obesity is avoidable with healthy eating and physical fitness. DTYCTS provides the opportunity to talk to fathers about how to incorporate healthy eating and physical fitness in their homes.

School Safety & Volunteer Opportunities (Appendix E)

Fathers can provide assistance as hall monitors or school security. WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is an example of a national program that encourages fathers to volunteer within schools to promote anti-bullying and school safety.

More Resources

Fathering From A Distance: <http://www.fatherhood.org/page.aspx?pid=499>

Child Support: <https://www.childsupport.ny.gov/dcse/home.html>

Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students): <http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs>



Appendix A: Financial Literacy and Asset Building

Concept:

As the song goes, “money makes the world go around...” And although talking about money can be difficult with families living paycheck to paycheck, kids and parents talking about money together can create a fun learning opportunity and families can make important decisions for the future. DTYCTS provides a unique opportunity to talk to fathers and children about the importance of good money management, such as affordable banking, tax refunds and free tax preparation services as well as programs to assist in addressing credit /debt issues or receiving matched funding for savings efforts. Programs could be focused for just the kids, just the dads, or the dads and kids together.

Example Activities:

The following asset building activities could be made available:

- Invite representatives from local banks or credit unions to help fathers open child savings accounts. Many financial institutions offer affordable, accessible products with minimal ongoing costs to meet the varying needs of fathers in the community.
- Financial educators could provide a 15-30 minute interactive presentation on such topics as:
 - ✓ Tools and strategies for long-term savings for your child’s future (such as NY state’s 529 College Savings Program)
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites in the community could present on the benefits of free tax preparation as well as the many tax credits that may be available for fathers, including the Non-Custodial Parent Earned Income Tax Credit, uniquely available in New York State.
- Matched savings programs—where each dollar saved is matched by dollars from a grant program—could be on hand to present about their program and sign fathers up for the program onsite.
 - ✓ Ask a local Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, or fraternal organization to donate funds that could match the savings of your students—dollar for dollar—for a one-week savings challenge.

Make Connections:

- SmartyPig: <http://www.smartypig.com/>
- Mint.com: <https://www.mint.com/>
- New York State’s 529 College Savings Program: <https://uui.nysaves.s.upromise.com/>
- New York State Community Action Agencies: <http://www.nyscommunityaction.org/index.cfm>
- New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Financial Empowerment: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ofe/html/home/home.shtml>
- The Financial Clinic: <http://www.thefinancialclinic.org>
- Seedco: <http://www.seedco.org/>

Appendix B: Job Development and Educational Advancement

Concept:

Educational advancement and job skill development are keys to success for dads—alleviating financial stress, achieving educational and professional goals raises self-confidence levels. Low skill workers and families with low levels of education were especially hurt during the economic downturn. DTYCTS provides an opportunity for schools and Head Starts to provide information for fathers who would like to continue their education and/or obtain more job skills.

Example Activities:

- Invite a financial aid advisor to come speak with dads from your local CUNY, SUNY, or Community College.
- Have a discussion of the dangers of predatory education institutions and “diploma mills” that make false promises to students and are expensive.
 - ✓ Invite a speaker from the Department of Consumer Affairs to speak to dads about the Know Before You Enroll campaign.
- Invite someone to talk about community resources for obtaining affordable education/job training programs.
- Invite local fatherhood programs that offer job skill training.



Make Connections:

- CUNY: <http://www.cuny.edu/index.html>
- SUNY: <http://www.suny.edu/>
- Department of Consumer Affairs, Know Before You Enroll: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dca/html/home/home.shtml>
- Federal Financial Aid: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Department of Labor One-Stop Career Center: <http://labor.ny.gov/workforcenypartners/osview.asp>
- The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) administers federal government job training and worker dislocation programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs, and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems.
- Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration: <http://www.doleta.gov/etainfo/>
- National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse: www.fatherhood.gov
- Office of Children & Family Services: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/fatherhood/>

Appendix C: Integrating Literacy Improvement and Homework Help

Concept:

When fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their education, children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Even when fathers do not share a home with their children, their active involvement can have a lasting and positive impact. There are countless ways for fathers to be involved in their child's education at all ages.

Example Activities:

- Demonstrate age-appropriate techniques to read aloud to a child.
- Set aside time during the event for fathers to read to and with their children.
- Pass out reading logs and encourage fathers to read with their children at home. Provide an incentive to complete the reading log (ask a partner organization or library to donate books or prizes).
- Pass out library logs and encourage fathers to visit their local library with their children.
- Provide list of father friendly books.
- Talk to fathers about strategies for engaging in conversations about school and homework. Below are some examples for ways fathers can engage with their children:

Talk about your day first. Conversations about school often happen after sharing something about your day. Maybe a joke someone told at lunch or an interesting bit of current event news would stimulate a conversation about something at school.

Use the backpack as a conversation starter. Go through your child's backpack with them every day after school. You may find the little notes from teachers with assignments on them, as well as tests and homework assignments returned with grades on them.

Ask direct questions. Rather than asking, "What did you do at school today?" consider asking some specific questions that will give you specific information you want.



Make Connections:

- Imagination Library: www.imaginationlibrary.com
- Find your local public library in New York State: www.nysl.nysed.gov
- National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse: <http://www.fatherhood.gov/get-involved/with-school>
- Reading is Fundamental (available in Spanish) http://www.rif.org/kids/leer/en/leerhome_english.htm

Appendix D: Health and Wellness for Men and Families

Concept:

Over the past three decades, the rate of childhood obesity in America has tripled. Today, nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. The numbers are even higher in African American and Hispanic communities, where nearly 40% of the children are overweight or obese. Obesity is avoidable with healthy eating and physical fitness. DTYCTS provides the opportunity to talk to fathers about how to incorporate healthy eating and physical fitness in their homes. In addition, there are many creative ways to have children and fathers participate in physical activities throughout the event.

Example Activities:

The following health & wellness activities could be made available at the school during the event:

- Invite health professionals to come in and speak about the importance of child health and/or men's health.
 - ✓ Provide blood pressure screenings for dads
 - ✓ Discuss specific men's health issues such as prostate cancer screening, colorectal screening, hypertension and diabetes
 - ✓ A responsible father is a healthy father.
- Invite Federal partners from the Let's Move! campaign to discuss the campaign's goal and how families and schools can make healthy choices and build healthy communities.
- Plan physical activities that dads and children can participate in together, such as:
 - ✓ Dads & children vs. Dads & children basketball game.
 - ✓ Dads & children's victory lap around the school at the end of the event.
- Host a cooking class for dads and have the children help as assistant chefs.
 - ✓ Let's Move! Volunteer chefs can come in to provide a cooking demonstration and lesson.
- Plan a discussion on health literacy, accessing benefits, and the Affordable Care Act.

Make Connections:

- Visit the Let's Move! Campaign: www.letsmove.gov
- Center for Disease Control & Prevention, Men's Health: <http://www.cdc.gov/men/>
- Children's Aid Society, Go!Healthy Kids & Nutrition program: www.childrensaidsociety.org/kids-health-nutrition
- New York State Department of Health: <http://www.health.ny.gov/>
- New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/home/home.shtml>
- Office of Minority Health, Men's Health: <http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=81>
- Choose My Plate: <http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>
- New York City Green Cart Initiative: http://www.applepushers.com/documents/about_green_carts.pdf
- Healthy Food Financing Initiative: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ocs_food.html

Appendix E: School Safety and Volunteer Opportunities

Concept:

When fathers volunteer as hall monitors and school security guards, rates of bullying and school violence drop. In addition to the security that these dads provide, they also serve as invaluable male role models.

There is a benefit for dads too—the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community. The intangible benefits alone, such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment are worthwhile reasons to serve.

When fathers join an organization at their child's school or Head Start, like the PTA or Policy Council, their child knows that their father cares about how he or she does in school. Getting involved can take on many different forms for different fathers. Even small commitments can have a big impact. Schools can encourage small steps, like chaperoning a trip or working with a teacher on a classroom need.



Example Activities:

- Fathers can provide assistance as hall monitors or school security.
- Have someone come in from WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is a national program that encourages fathers to volunteer within schools to promote anti-bullying and school safety.
- Fathers can coach a team.
- Helping with school events (i.e., chaperoning an event, serving on a school committee or parent/teacher group, landscaping, construction, etc.).
- Remind fathers that they can add any volunteer work that they have done to their resume.
- Before your DTYCTS event, define and develop ways throughout the upcoming year in which dads can become involved at your school or Head Start.

Make Connections:

- WATCH D.O.G.S.: http://www.fathers.com/content/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=60/
- National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse: <http://www.fatherhood.gov/get-involved/in-the-community>
- New York State PTA: <http://www.nyspta.org/>

Men Participate in 6th Annual Dads Take Your Child to School

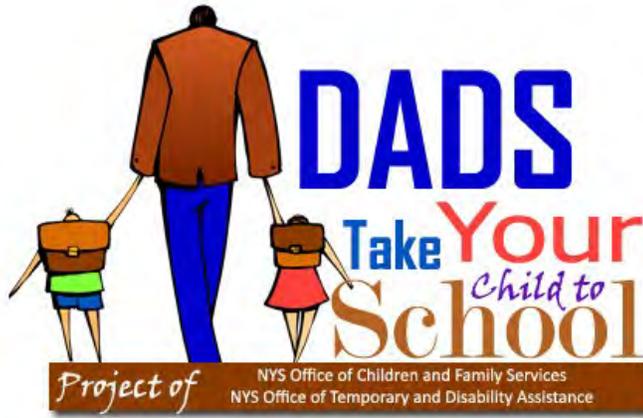
YOUR CITY, NY - Fathers and father figures are urged to accompany their children to the first day of school this year, as part of a statewide fatherhood initiative. Schools and Head Start programs across the state will be participating on ___DATE___.

“Fathers are essential to a child’s development and well-being, and they need to be involved in their children’s education,” said Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS). “When fathers take an active interest, children do better in school, have fewer behavioral problems, and are more likely to graduate.”

YOUR SITE is inviting fathers and father figures to participate by accompanying their children to school on _____DATE_____. ADD DESCRIPTION OF YOUR ACTIVITIES HERE.

Dads Take Your Child to School is part of a larger national movement called the Million Father March, organized by the Black Star Project in Chicago, IL. The event is organized locally by each school or Head Start center, but there are numerous state and local agencies partnering to plan the statewide approach. Partners include New York State’s Offices of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the Region II Office of the federal Administration for Children and Families, New York State Community Action Association, New York State Parenting Education Partnership, Fathers Inc., New York City’s Departments of Youth and Community Development, Education, Administration for Children’s Services, and Human Resource Administration, and many other local partners and supporters around the state.

“Actively involved fathers are a positive force in the lives of their children and their community. When fathers are involved in the lives of their children, especially their education, their children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior,” said Joyce A. Thomas, Regional Administrator for Administration for Children and Families, Region II.



FATHER

UNCLE **Foster**
big brother **Father**
father-figure **mentor**
GRANDFATHER
Stepfather

[INSERT DATE/TIME YOUR SCHOOL IS HAVING THE EVENT]

Customizable flier is available at www.sites.google.com/site/dtycts



For more information, contact:

[insert contact person name, email and phone number]



FATHER

UNCLE
big brother
Father-figure
GRANDFATHER
Stepfather



Foster
Father
mentor

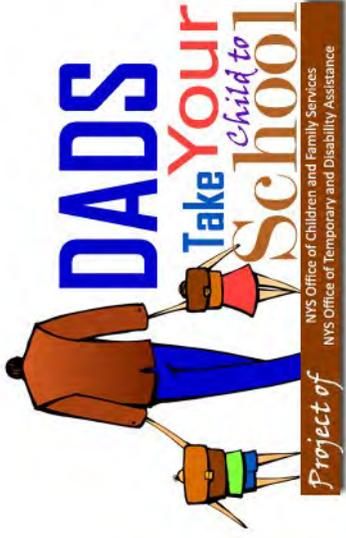
[INSERT DATE/TIME YOUR SCHOOL IS HAVING THE EVENT]

Customizable flier is available at www.sites.google.com/site/dtycts



Para más información llame:

[insert contact person name, email and phone number]



Certificate of Participation

This certificate is awarded to

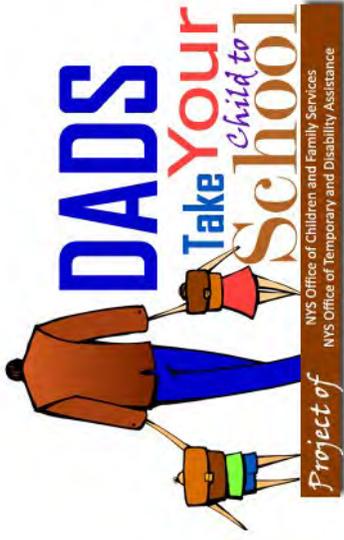
In recognition of your participation in the
Dads Take Your Child to School Initiative

Joyce A. Thomas, Regional Administrator,
Administration for Children and Families, Region II

Head Start Director



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Certificate of Participation

This certificate is awarded to

In recognition of your participation in the
Dads Take Your Child to School Initiative

Joyce A. Thomas, Regional Administrator,
 Administration for Children and Families, Region II

Head Start Director



NYC
 Michael R. Bloomberg
 Mayor

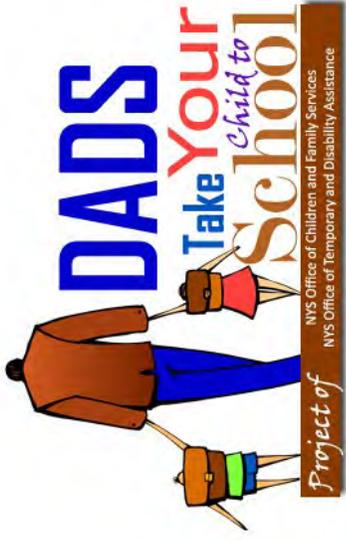
ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Administration for
 Children's Services
 Ronald E. Richter
 Commissioner

Department of
 Education
 Dennis M. Walcott
 Chancellor

Human Resources
 Administration
 Social Services
 Robert Doer
 Commissioner

Department of
 Youth and Community
 Development
 Jeanne B. Mulgrew
 Commissioner



Certificate of Participation

This certificate is awarded to

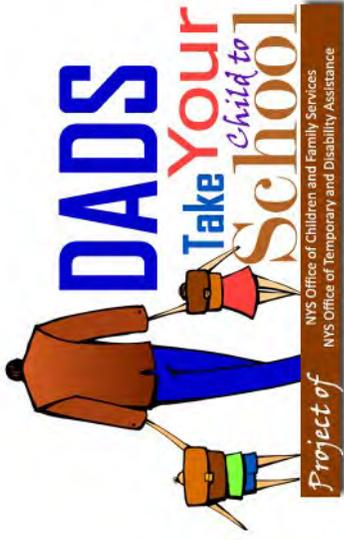
In recognition of your participation in the
Dads Take Your Child to School Initiative

George Carroli

Commissioner
New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Principal





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 Commissioner
 New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Principal



