

Article Navigation

Expectant Fathers' Beliefs and Expectations about Fathering as They Prepare to Parent a New Infant

Carolyn Joy Dayton; Raelynn Buczkowski; Maria Muzik; Jessica Goletz; Laurel Hicks; Tova B. Walsh; Erika L. Bocknek

Soc Work Res (2016) 40 (4): 225-236. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svw017>

Published: 02 December 2016 [Article history](#) ▼

 Cite  Share ▼  Tools ▼

Abstract

The parent–infant relationship begins during pregnancy as parents prepare psychologically for the birth of their child. Father involvement, beginning in pregnancy, is associated with positive maternal and infant outcomes. Less is known about fathers' experiences as they prepare to parent a new baby, especially fathers who are parenting in contexts of risk. The current study interviewed 44 expectant fathers to gain a deeper understanding of their thoughts and experiences during the prenatal period. Fathers described the importance of preparing their children to be productive citizens and described their anticipated parenting roles with their child as an older child (that is, beyond early childhood). For many fathers a sense of increased responsibility and the need to provide financially for their family weighed heavily. When seeking parenting support, the majority of fathers described a reliance on women in their lives for advice. Fathers' focus on their parenting role with older children during interviews conducted in the prenatal period suggests that the importance of active engagement with their infant may be overlooked. Interventions that help fathers identify and engage in parenting roles with their infants have the capacity to support the early father–infant relationship, which forms the foundation for a long-lasting father–child relationship.

Keywords: [fathering](#), [infants](#), [parenting](#), [pregnancy](#)

Issue Section: [Articles](#)

[About Social Work Research](#)

[Editorial Board](#)

[Author Guidelines](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Purchase](#)

[Recommend to your Library](#)

[Advertising and Corporate Services](#)

[Journals Career Network](#)



Online ISSN 1545-6838

Print ISSN 1070-5309

Copyright © 2017 National Association of Social Workers

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Careers](#)

[Help](#)

[Access & Purchase](#)

[Rights & Permissions](#)

[Open Access](#)

Connect

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[OUPblog](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Tumblr](#)

Resources

[Authors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

[Sponsors & Advertisers](#)

[Press & Media](#)

[Agents](#)

Explore

[Shop OUP Academic](#)

[Oxford Dictionaries](#)

[Oxford Index](#)

[Epigeum](#)

[OUP Worldwide](#)

[University of Oxford](#)

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and education by publishing worldwide



Copyright © 2017 Oxford University Press

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Legal Notices](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Get Adobe Reader](#)



SOCIAL SCIENCES

Search opportunities on the
Oxford University Press
Journals Career Network

Your perfect job is closer
than you think



[View Metrics](#)

Email alerts

[New issue alert](#)

In Pursuit of Belonging: Acculturation,
Perceived Discrimination, and Ethnic-Racial
Identity among Latino Youths