

An invitation to contribute to the

TALKING TO DADS ABOUT BONDING (ATTACHMENT) PROJECT

A joint initiative of the Australian Fatherhood Research Network and the Family Action Centre, University of Newcastle

- How exactly do practitioners explain attachment to fathers?
- How do they start the conversation?
- What examples seem to work?
- How are differences between mother-infant and father-infant attachment framed?

The experiences and views of practitioners will be compiled to produce a resource for those working with fathers and their families

How can I contribute?

Send your account of how you talk to fathers about attachment processes and issues to richard.fletcher@newcastle.edu.au

What type of account are we looking for?

For this publication we need specific case examples. Examples which give a 'blow-by-blow' account will be most useful. In many cases it will be a one-to-one discussion but it also may be in a group setting like an antenatal class. In that case we are still interested in specifics of who said what.

What should I include in my account?

The male carer

We are interested in all male carers: biological, step, foster and separated fathers; mum's boyfriend; granddads.

The context

Where did the conversation take place (In a clinic? In a park? At a home visit?). What was the purpose of the contact? Who else was there?

The starting point

How did attachment/bonding come up?

Your memory of the conversation

What did you say? What did he say in response? What did you say next? How did he react? Did you use any aids or resources or diagrams or particular examples? How did it end?

What will happen to the information in your email if you do send in an account?

1. Nothing without your permission
2. The final product for this project is a booklet-length publication on the web (free) and a print version (at a cost to cover production

and distribution). The booklet will be titled “Talking to dads about bonding with their baby”

3. If your example fits this publication I will edit it and send it back to you for approval or further information. We may need a few back and forth emails to get the story into a version that will suit the intended audience - practitioners across the human services field.
4. Your contribution will be acknowledged with a credit line that includes your sex, occupational type, and the location of the conversation. For example “Female child protection worker, home visit”. You will have final approval on your credit line.

Confidentiality

Your account will be checked to remove any identifiers of individuals, organizations or locations. Details of the presenting issues will be retained, for example “Foster father with 4 year old boy with history of abuse”. Names may be retained to preserve the tone of the conversation, for example “David never asked me for a cuddle” since all names will be replaced with pseudonyms.

If you have any questions please contact me
at richard.fletcher@newcastle.edu.au