



Parent-child Relationships

Family & Consumer Studies 3270.01

3 credit hours

Don Herrin, Ph.D. – 801-581-3497

don.herrin@fcs.utah.edu

This semester, our study of parent-child relationships will focus to a considerable degree on dads. There is much we can learn about parenting through the perspective of dads. Recent research has found that men can be very effective dads – especially when they get involved early in the ongoing care of infants and kids! What are the consequences of this level of involvement for kids, dads, spouses, families, and communities? To make sense of all this, we explore the following questions:

In the past, why haven't more men been more involved in raising kids?

Do moms and dads care for kids in different ways? Do they have different styles? Does this matter?

Are kids who are raised by involved dads different from kids who are not?

How do dads influence their kids and their development as they get older?

What are the effects of raising kids on involved dads?

Why do many men have kids, leave them, then have more kids with other moms?

What are the effects of divorce on fathers, kids, families, and communities?

How do women influence men's involvement in raising kids?

What are the cultural factors that discourage fathers from becoming more competent and more involved as dads?

How can public policy help create father-friendly environments in the workplace and our society?

Could there be a biological basis for nurturing in fathers?

If we want to, how can we improve our current relationship with our dads?

How can we replace negative patterns of parenting that we experienced with our parents, step-parents, and/or other significant adults, with much more positive patterns?

Grades are based on a combination of discussions, in-class writing activities, and three multiple-choice, true/false, and essay question take-home exams. We drop the lowest of the three exams. Come and check us out and become a contributing member of our class. Questions and discussion are encouraged. Thanks for your interest. Hope to see you in class.