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Abstract: “Male Counterparts in Family Child Care: The Positive Role that Husbands Play in Successful Homes”

Men in early childhood are under-represented, yet they play important roles for children. When family child care providers are married women, their husbands invariably play some role in the success of these in-home programs. Some husbands complete the income tax ritual for their wives, while others are as equally invested in the day-to-day responsibilities of working with clients’ children as are their wives. The male role model has been acknowledged as an important part of early childhood education, and the quality of family child care can benefit from an informed discussion, *with* providers, of the subtle influences these men can have on the educare programs being delivered in their homes.

Participants learn about the importance of husbands in their programs’ success. The significance of husbands as supporters of family child care programs is described and analyzed. Stories from the presenters, research, and the audience are used to create a model for the positive influence husbands have on our work.

Outline

Overview of husbands/men in child care and family child care.

- I. Stories from research illustrating husband support
- II. Stories from a provider explaining husband’s role and perspective
- III. Participant discussion of husbands in family child care
 - a. Examples of direct work with children
 - b. Examples of supporting the child care environment/planning/preparation
 - c. Intellectual support, encouragement
 - d. Male perspective and attitude in working with children
- IV. Co-construct importance of husband’s supporting role (how’s and why’s)
- V. Co-construct roadblocks, problems of husband involvement
- VI. Co-construct new directions, further examination, ways to effect change (for example: how regulators and inspectors can understand the benefits of this unique aspect of family child care and men in early childhood education).