Extraordinary Fathers!

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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EXTRAORDINARY FATHERS!

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Father's are important in the lives of children.

No one will argue with that statement, but research has shown that their influence goes far beyond what we might think.

Dr. David Popeneo, a noted sociologist, has stated that "Fathers are far more than just 'second adults' in the home. Involved fathers bring positive benefits to their children that no other person is as likely to bring."

Over 70 million fathers across the nation are directly impacting their children's lives in many ways.

Children with involved, caring fathers...

- are better prepared as they start school
- do better academically in school
- have higher IQs and better verbal and cognitive skills
- are more patient with others
- handle stresses and frustrations better
- are more likely to be emotionally secure
- are more confident
- have better social skills
- have better control of their emotions
- are more independent
- have fewer behavior problems in school
- have higher self-esteem

What an impact fathers can have!

Involved and caring fathers of children with special needs are ordinary men doing extraordinary things. Not only are they doing the same things other caring fathers are doing, but they usually have added burdens and responsibilities related to their child's extra needs.

Fathers of children with special needs can coach their children to develop the specific skills they need, build their confidence, provide opportunities for them to achieve small triumphs, give constant encouragement and support, cheer for each tiny milestone reached, and place "medals" around their necks with each accomplishment.

As one father of a special needs child put it, "He wasn't the son that I had dreamed about having...he was more work, more worry, more challenging than I had planned on. But, in the long run, he has brought more joy and love into my life, and has made me become a better father than I would have been without him."

Happy Father's Day to all involved, caring fathers everywhere!