



Gateway CAP Fatherhood Times

Your Paternal Information Resource

"One day can open the door. What we do afterward builds the relationship." – Gateway CAP Male Initiative

DEAR DAD: THE DAY YOU SHOWED UP

When a father or male caregiver walks into a classroom with a child, the moment can feel ordinary: a greeting at the door, a shared activity, a few minutes looking around. Yet it can also be the beginning of something important. Dads Bring Your Child to School Day offers an invitation to see where children learn, meet the adults who support them, and show children that their education matters.

The real opportunity comes after the event. A father who asks what happened in class, reads a familiar story at bedtime, or talks with a teacher is continuing that connection. Participation does not have to look the same in every household. Work schedules, transportation, and caregiving arrangements differ. What matters is finding a reliable way to remain engaged.

Head Start recognizes fathers and other male caregivers as partners in children's learning and family well-being.¹ Whether you were able to attend the special day or not, you belong in the conversation about your child's growth.

This October, let the event be a starting point rather than a finish line. Ask one question, make one connection, and choose one small action you can repeat.

Gateway CAP Male Initiative Team

Source:

1. Office of Head Start, Birth to 5 Father Engagement Guide. <https://headstart.gov/family-engagement/birth-5-father-engagement-guide/birth-5-father-engagement-guide>



October 2026
Volume 9 Issue 5

October Theme:

Beyond One Day:

Showing Up Makes a Difference

Fatherhood Reflection: More Than a Moment

A photograph captures a moment. A relationship grows through repeated moments. The school visit matters, but so does listening to your child's story afterward, checking in with a teacher, or finding a way to participate from home.

You do not have to attend every event to be a meaningful partner in your child's education. Start with what is possible, and keep showing up in ways your child can count on.

Try This This Month: Be Fully Present

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For expectant fathers and Early Head Start families (prenatal–3):

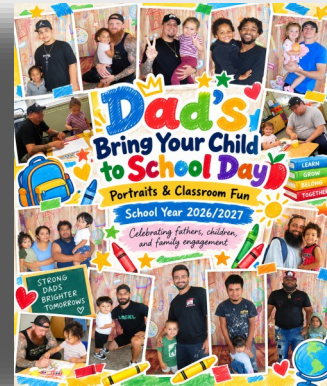
- Talk or sing during daily routines; respond to your baby's sounds and gestures.
- Ask caregivers about one new skill or interest you can support at home.
- Share a short book or picture conversation together.

For Head Start families (ages 3–5):

- Ask your child to show you something they learned.
- Read together and let your child lead the conversation about the pictures.
- Ask the teacher one question about your child's interests

or progress.

Choose one action you can repeat this week. Small, dependable connections count.



This Month at Gateway: From One Day to Every Day

Dads Bring Your Child to School Day was more than an opportunity to walk our children through the school doors. It was a celebration of the important role fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other positive male caregivers play in their children's lives and education.

Across Gateway CAP Head Start and Early Head Start, the day gave families an opportunity to celebrate connection, involvement, and the value of showing up.

The photographs featured in this edition capture moments worth celebrating. But the real opportunity is what comes next.

Father engagement does not begin or end with a special event. It continues through conversations with teachers, shared learning experiences at home, participation in classroom activities, and the everyday encouragement children receive from the men who care about them.

**ONE DAY BROUGHT US TOGETHER.
LET'S KEEP THAT CONNECTION
GROWING THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR.**



OCTOBER FATHERHOOD COUNCIL – IN PERSON (PHILADELPHIA)

- **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 – 7:00 PM**
- **Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – 7:00 PM**

Meeting location for both events: **4221 Aspen St., Philadelphia, PA 19104**

More info: Quahsim Gredric – 215-934-1057

OCTOBER DADS GATEWAY FATHERHOOD COUNCIL – VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

Facilitated by Michael Cupeles

These virtual sessions offer fathers a space to connect, share, and grow, no travel required.

- **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 6:00 PM (ET)**
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://gatewaycap-org.zoom.us/j/89973375386>
- **Meeting ID:** 899 7337 5386
Passcode: FATHERHOOD
- **Wednesday, November 11, 2026 6:00 PM (ET)**
Zoom Meeting Link: <https://gatewaycap-org.zoom.us/j/89973375386>
- **Meeting ID:** 899 7337 5386
Passcode: FATHERHOOD

These sessions are open to **expectant fathers, Early Head Start fathers, Head Start fathers, and male caregivers of the community.**

Why This Matters

Your Presence Is More Than a Moment

Dad, when you walked through those school doors with your child, you did more than participate in an event. You showed your child that their world matters to you.

But your influence doesn't end when you leave the classroom.

It continues when you ask about their day, listen to their stories, celebrate something they've learned, or take a few minutes to connect after a long day.

You don't have to attend every event or have all the answers to make a difference. Your involvement can take many forms, and every opportunity to build that connection matters.

Dads Bring Your Child to School Day gave us something worth celebrating. Now we have an opportunity to build on it, not because a program expects it, but because **you belong in your child's learning journey.**

And Gateway CAP is here to support you along the way.

Because this isn't just Head Start for your child. **It's Head Start for you, too.**

gatewaycap.org/maleinitiative