

# Northwest's Practices for Involving Guys in Head Start

*Based on observations and discussions with parents, staff, and Policy Council*

- All staff should expect/encourage Guys to be involved.
- From recruiting on, send the message that Guys are part of Head Start too. It is not a program "just for moms."
- Orientation needs to reinforce that Head Start is a program for the whole family (including Dad).
- All mailings should include both parents names.
- Books and materials should take into account the interests and comfort level of Guys.
- Provide on-site child care, meals, and door prizes at parent meetings to encourage both parents to attend.
- Ask for and expect Guy's input.
- Don't always ask to talk with Mom when you call the family.
- Share the child's progress with Dad.
- When doing home visits with Guys, keep their interests in mind.
- Leave Family Home Activities that Guys would enjoy doing with their child.
- Plan centers, field trips, and clusters with Guys in mind early in the year.
- Put Guys on the volunteer list too.
- Encourage Guys who are participating to share their experiences and invite other Guys.
- Year-end Survey should include questions regarding the involvement of both parents.
- Know your own thoughts and biases about involving Guys!