

## INCLUDING DADS IN SCHOOL: A SCHOOL CHECKLIST

[Please Note: "Dads" refers to biological dads, foster dads, step dads, grampies, uncles, and male caregivers.]

**Directions:** Circle a score for each item below. Add them up to get a score out of 30 and check your school's score against the rating scale on page 3.

### School Lobby/Entryway

Are there posters, pictures, signs or other visual clues to indicate men are welcome and valued at your school?

None (0)    A Few (1)    Many (2)

### Staff Skills

Are staff (teachers, administrators, support staff) comfortable talking to men of all backgrounds?

Some difficulties (0)    Good (1)    Very good (2)

### Child Drop Off/Pick Up Times

Are strategies in place to engage dads when dropping off or picking up their children?

No (0)    Working on it (1)    Yes (2)

Does the staff know the first and last names of the dads who regularly come into the school?

A few (0)    Some (1)    Many (2)

### Child Protection

Is it clear to dads that you are seeking their help in keeping children safe?

Unclear (0)    Sometimes clear (1)    Very Clear (2)

## **Parent Involvement**

Are dads involved in all areas of the day-to-day running of the school?

None (0)    A few (1)    Many (2)

Does your school involve dads in the planning, implementation and evaluation of school programs, policies or practices?

None involved(0)    A few (1)    Many involved(2)

## **Enrolment/Orientation**

Does your school's orientation procedures make it clear that dads are welcome and expected to be involved?

No (0)    Working on it (1)    Definitely (2)

## **Communication with Parents**

Are there materials that are clearly aimed at dads available in your school office, library, etc.?

None (0)    A few (1)    Many (2)

Does your school newsletter, website, notices and posters recognise the positive role dads play in children's lives and value that role?

No (0)    Sometimes (1)    Always (2)

How many dads read the school notes and newsletters?

None (0)    A few (1)    Many (2)

## **Engagement Goals**

Has your school investigated activities that foster the engagement of dads?

No (0)    Working on it (1)    Activities have taken place (2)

## Cultural Diversity

Does your school recognise the many cultures of the dads whose children attend your school?

No (0)      Sometimes recognised (1)      Always recognised (2)

Do dads understand they are seen by the school as important for children and infants?

Not recognised (0)      Some recognition (1)      Highly recognised (2)

## Separated Families

Do your enrolment forms include information on dads? If families separate/divorce, is the information updated?

No (0)      Some information updated (1)      Updated for both parents (2)

Add up your total score.

**Total Score**\_\_\_\_\_

### How did your school do?

**Less than 10 points:** There may have been some attempts to get dads involved but they are still not a presence in your school. More opportunities for involving dads are needed and more whole school discussions about how this can be done.

**Between 10 and 20 points:** Dads are included in some areas. Staff have thought about some ways to increase dads' involvement and see this as an important part of their work. There is a good foundation on which to continue to build.

**More than 20 points:** The school is doing really well with engaging dads. Staff have thought about the best ways to actively encourage involvement of all dads and progress has been made in this regard. Congratulations and share your ideas with others.