

Fathers' Involvement in Children's Learning

**National Center for Fathering
National Random Sample Poll Results
Comparisons – 2008 vs. 1999**

**Data Collected
October 1-3, 1999 (n=894)
May 16-18, 2008 (n=876)**

(Telephone Surveys)

**Contact: Peter Spokes
National Center for Fathering
pspokes@fathers.com
913-384-4661**

All fathers can play a critical role in their children's education. Research shows that when fathers are involved, their children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Seeking to assess the level of father involvement in a child's education, the National Center for Fathering conducted a national random sample in October 1999 and May 2008

The surveys involved approximately 900 men and women, and requested their responses to the questions summarized below. Fathers were asked the questions, "Do you..." Mothers were asked the questions, "Does your child's father..." The survey used a single-stage, random digit-dial (RDD) sample technique to select each sample from all available residential telephone numbers in the contiguous United States. Up to three attempts were made on the selected telephone numbers. Interviews were conducted over a 3 day period.

Since 1990 the National Center for Fathering has sought to champion the role of effective fathering by inspiring and equipping men to be more involved in the lives of children. To accomplish its mission, the Center conducts extensive, ongoing fathering research across the nation in order to develop user-friendly materials to equip fathers. This research includes three previous surveys on Fatherhood in America. They are available on the Center's website: www.fathers.com.

**National Center for Fathering
National Random Sample Poll Results – 2008 vs. 1999
Father Involvement in Education**

1. How often (do you/does your child's father):*

	<u>% At least 1-2 times per Month</u>			<u>% Never</u>		
	<u>Oct 1999</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>Oct 1999</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>+/-</u>
walk or take your child to school.	38	53	+15	52	37	-15
visit your child's classroom.	30	37	+7	37	30	-7
have lunch with your child at school.	9	17	+8	77	69	-8
attend school meetings.	28	32	+4	34	27	-7
attend class events.	34	46	+12	31	20	-11
volunteer at your child's school.	20	24	+4	58	50	-8
read to your child.	55	56	+1	40	38	-2
help your child with homework.	74	83	+9	18	15	-3
praise and reward your child for good school work.	85	87	+2	8	6	-2
help your child in extracurricular activities like music, sports, etc.	71	83	+12	19	11	-8
meet with other dads for support.	17	40	+23	76	49	-27
discuss your child's progress in school with your child's mother.	84	85	+1	9	8	-1
communicate with your child's teacher	49	49	+	27	19	-8

National Center for Fathering
National Random Sample Poll Results – 2008 vs. 1999
Father Involvement in Education
(con't)

2. How often (do you/does your child's father):*

	<u>% Always or Sometimes</u>			<u>% Never</u>		
	<u>Oct 1999</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>Oct 1999</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>+/-</u>
review and sign your child's report cards	76	79	+3	21	19	-2
attend parent/teacher conferences	69	78	+9	26	21	-8
attend school-based parents organization meetings	47	49	+2	52	50	-2

3. Please answer yes or no to the following:*

	<u>% of Respondents "Yes"</u>		
	<u>Oct 1999</u>	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Do you/does your child's father believe your child is getting a good education	88	94	+6
Are you/is your child's father confident that your child is safe at school	81	91	+10
Do you/does your child's father know the name of your child's physician	78	82	+4
Have you/has your child's father discussed school safety issues with your child	74	80	+6
Do you/does your child's father know the name of your child's teacher	74	81	+7
Have you/has your child's father helped your child complete a school project in the last six months	63	77	+14
Do you/does your child's father know the name of the school counselor	38	53	+15
Percent of respondents answering no to all of the above	4	2	-2

* Fathers were asked the questions, "Do you...." Mothers were asked the questions, "Does your child's father...."