

Mother's Role in Father Involvement

Mothers can serve as gatekeepers to the father-child relationship. Many women are ambivalent about greater father involvement for a variety of reasons including concerns about their husband's competence as a caregiver, feared loss of control over a domain in which they exercised significant power, and an unwillingness to change their standards for housework and childcare. The father's level of involvement in the child's life is therefore, partly determined by the extent to which mothers permit participation.

When mothers are supportive of their spouse's parenting (view them as competent parents, provide encouragement, expect and believe parenting is a joint venture), men are more likely to be involved with, and responsible for their children, feel recognized as a parental figure, place a greater importance on their father role identity and feel more satisfaction, pleasure, competence and comfort in their paternal role.

Source: The Father Toolkit