

Welcoming in, Learning About,
and Learning from Families

Black Dads Belong in the Learning Life of their Children

NAECTE VIRTUAL
JUNE 12, 2023

Lindsey L. Wilson, PhD
Josh Thompson, PhD

This presentation is based on our recently published article:

Wilson, L. & Thompson, J. (2022). Welcoming Black Dads: Action Steps and Reflections on Becoming Culturally Competent. *Young Children*, 77(4), 26-34.

<http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/>

drlindseywilson.com



Black men lead their children in learning...

- **Black Fathers** are actively involved in their children's lives through intentional interactions, robust caregiving duties, and rich language (Livingston & Parker, 2011)
- The CDC reports that **73% of Black men talk with their children** about things that happened during the day (several times a week or more)
- In 2018, CDC found Black fathers **were the most involved** with children regardless of residential status
- Fathers reported desiring that media and educators viewed them as the stable and active men that they are, who are willing to make the needed sacrifices for their children to thrive (Wilson, 2018)



Quadean and Carter

Credit: Twenty Eight Ink

A History of Exclusion

Mainstream narratives consistently depict Black fathers from a deficit perspective (Wilson & Thompson, 2021; Wilson 2018)

- Residential Status
- Work Status
- False narratives

Additionally, Black men have reported often being shut out of white-centered educational spaces. Despite the funds of knowledge they offer their young children and classmates and the active role they play.



Darnell and Darnell Jr.
Credit of Twenty Eight Ink

Richness of Educational Lessons that Black Dads Offer

The 'curriculum' of the Black barbershop is just one example of culturally situated knowledge, information, wisdom, and insight that is readily shared with the children in your classrooms, the sons and daughters of Black dads.

<https://barbershopbooks.org>

Where else have you seen educational exchanges happening with Black dads and their children?



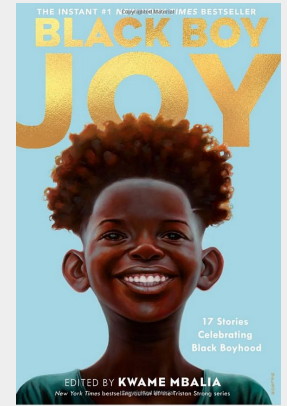
Richness of Cultural Lessons Provided by Black Dads

Listen to the richness of stories shared in so many spaces. Here's one for example: Black Fathers' Voices Project, Strengths, Assets, & Resilience (StAR) Lab [theSTARlab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/black-fathers-voices-project-2.mp4](https://www.thestarlab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/black-fathers-voices-project-2.mp4)



Where else have you seen the voices of Black dads celebrated?

How have you shared and amplified those voices?



The Role of Counternarratives

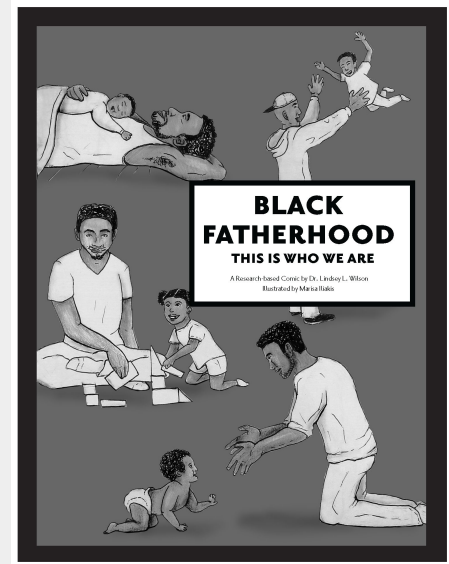
Explore the role of elevating counternarratives in providing a lens to support teachers in understanding Black fathers. Uncovering bias in our early childhood profession is merely the first step; now we must actively support teachers in crafting intentional anti-bias strategies to overcome resistance to learning how actively engaged Black fathers are in the lives of their children.



Creator: FatCamera

Five Practices to Foster Inclusive and Culturally Competent Classrooms

1. Examine the curriculum
2. Build relationships
3. Talk the talk
4. Walk the walk
5. Become culturally competent



A Research-based Comic
by Dr. Lindsey L. Wilson
Illustrated by Marisa Iliakis



Black Dads Belong in the Learning Life of their Children

Lindsey L. Wilson, PhD
Josh Thompson, PhD

NAECTE VIRTUAL
JUNE 12, 2023

This presentation is based on our recently published article:

Wilson, L. & Thompson, J. (2022). Welcoming Black Dads: Action Steps and Reflections on Becoming Culturally Competent. *Young Children*, 77(4), 26-34.

<http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/>

drlindseywilson.com

