

What About The Daddy?

In the One BY ONE ministry we spend a lot of our energy towards helping the mom or mom-to-be. The curriculum and the home visits are intentionally directed toward mentoring mothers. The one-on-one approach of the home visits is designed to work best woman to woman.

That having been said, we want to remind mentors that there is often another parent in the picture...the daddy. He and the mom might be married or they might be living together. He might not live in the home but still takes an active role in parenting the baby.

Our hope is that, if at all possible, you establish a relationship with the daddy. Certainly greet him if he's in the home during your visit. Encourage him to do the activities with you and the mom. If he stays close by during the visit, make sure he sees the **Discipline Matters** and **Health and Safety Issues** sheets. Include him, with the mom's consent, in some of the photos you take. Encourage his parenting skills by noticing the positive things you see him doing with the baby. Commend him for taking an active role in his child's life. Ask the dad to help the mom to do the activities with the baby during the time between your visits.

There is the wonderful chance that the dad might be close by as you transition the visit from activities with the baby to talking about spiritual matters. If he's in the room during this EXPAND time of the visit, include him in your conversation. If the dad continues to show interest and the mother feels comfortable with him there, direct your attention towards both parents as you share your spiritual story or an evangelistic tract. Be sensitive to the Lord's leadership and walk through every door of ministry He opens to you. At the end of the visit, if the dad is still close by, ask if he has any prayer requests about which you and your Prayer Partner can pray.

Talk with your Coordinator and/or pastor about the men's ministries (Bible studies, men's fellowship groups, etc.) available at your church. Take information about these ministries to the dad at one of your visits. Because of confidentiality issues, obtain the dad's permission before giving his name to others. Perhaps your church, as part of their ONE BY ONE ministry, could begin a ministry specifically for the dad. Can you imagine the change that might be possible if the dad had a Christian male mentor?!

Take every opportunity to bring encouragement and hope to both parents. What a blessing for the baby if both parents became believers! God bless you in your ministry efforts to the mom *and* dad.

Linda Hibner