

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BUFFALO FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE
WITHIN THE BUFFALO PRENATAL PERINATAL NETWORK AND THE FIU
CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF WNY

Fatherhood Matters!

Engaging and Enhancing Father Involvement in
Families

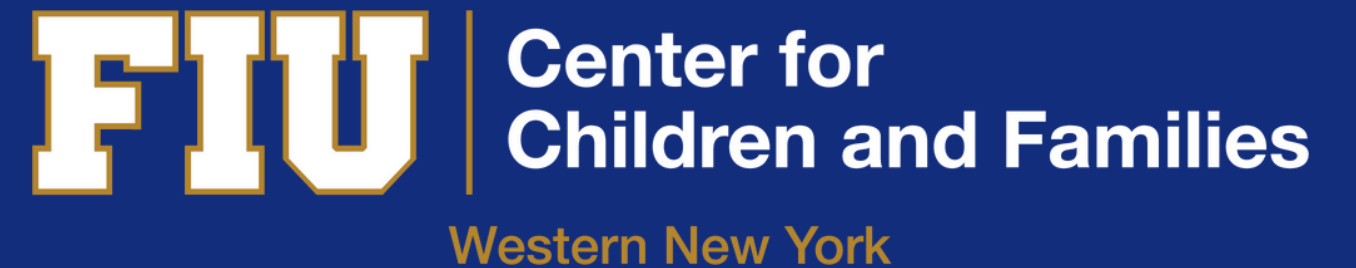


WHO WE ARE



BPPN Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative

- Antoine Johnson, Program Manager Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative
- Terry Seay, Senior Fatherhood Advisor



Center for Children and Families of Western New York

- Greg Fabiano, Clinical Psychologist
- Brittany Merrill, Clinical Psychologist
- Both have expertise in engaging parents in supportive programs

History of work with fathers

BUFFALO FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

- Nurturing Fathers supports male caregivers within WNY
- Antoine Johnson is a certified trainer
- Developed in-person and remote Nurturing Fathers programs



BUFFALO
**PRENATAL
PERINATAL
NETWORK**



History of work with fathers

COACHES

- Developed and evaluated the Coaching Our Acting Out Children: Heightening Essential Skills (COACHES) program for male caregivers
- Evaluated program in multiple settings
 - Clinic
 - Elementary School
 - Head Start Preschool



Why focus on fathers?

National Priority

Increased, meaningful father involvement in early childhood is a clear and long-standing national priority.

Fathers often left out of parenting programs

Yet, father involvement in supportive program settings is lagging behind that of mothers, and the research base on successful intervention approaches is modest.

Policy and program initiatives that fail to account for mechanisms to engage, involve, and retain fathers in efforts to promote positive parenting may fail.



Importance of Supporting Fathers' Role in Positive Child Development

06

Language development

- Use of complex vocabulary words during informal interactions
- Shared book reading

Development of social and emotional skills

- Emotion regulation
- Social cognition
- Focused attention
- All play a role in forming appropriate social relationships

Improved academic grades and achievement

Fewer mother-reported behavior problems

- Non-resident fathers who utilize effective parenting strategies had children with significantly fewer externalizing and internalizing problems.

Amato & Rivera, 1999;
Chacko, Fabiano et al., 2018;
Forehand et al., 1986;
McBride et al., 2005;
McWayne, et al., 2013; Nord,
Brimhall, & West, 1997;
Parke et al., 2002;
Pancsofar & Vernon-
Feagans, 2006;
Pancsofar, et al., 2010

CDC-Funded Research Project

07

THREE YEARS

144 Families

48 families per year

Who?

- Resident of Erie county in Western New York.
- Have a child **3 to 6 years of age**.
- Have a male caregiver who consents to participate in the study.
- Caregiver and child can speak and understand English.

Male caregiver

- Complete surveys before the intervention, after, and at one-month follow up
- Participate in one of the intervention groups

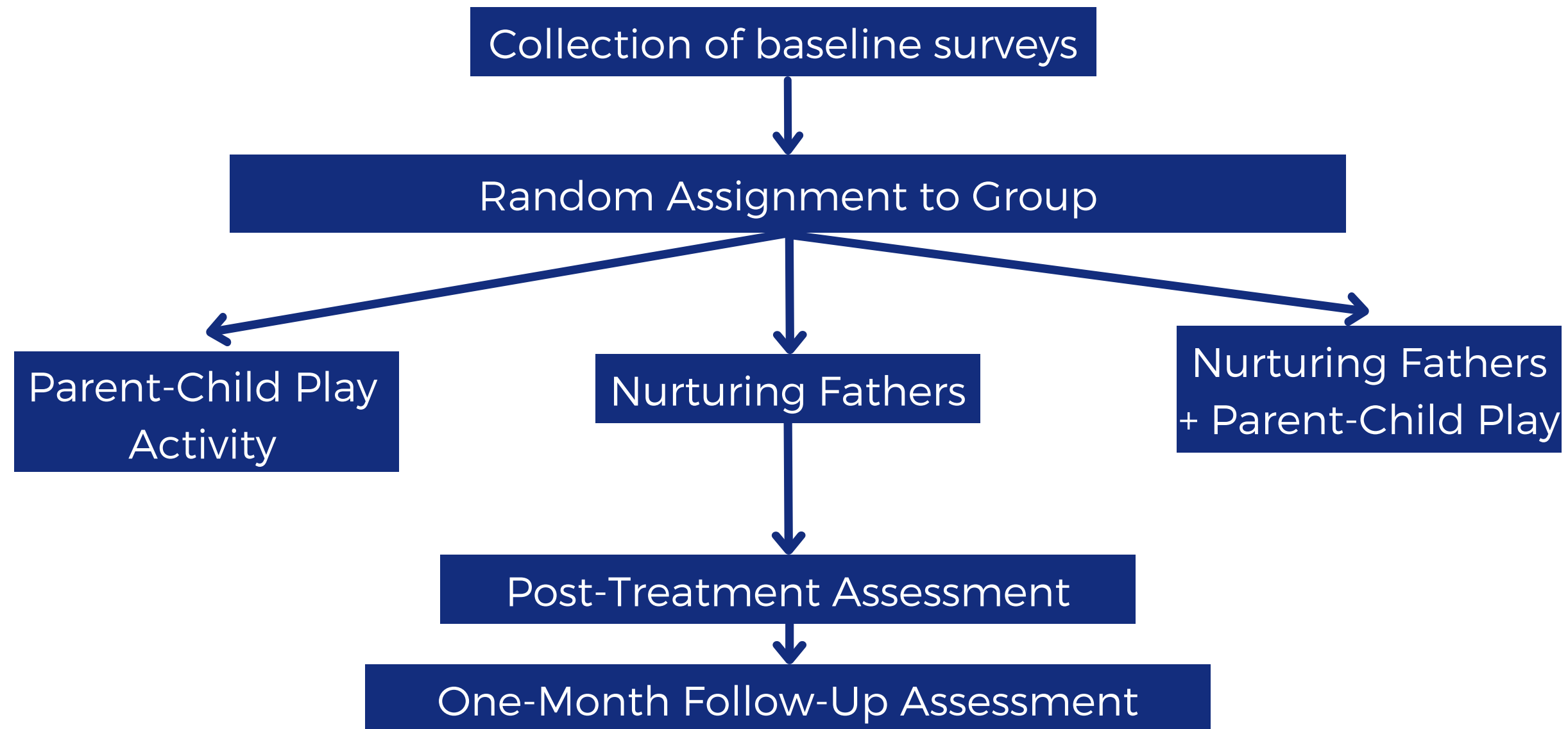
Other primary caregiver

- Complete surveys before the intervention, after, and at one-month follow up

Parents receive \$50 each time they complete the surveys



Study Design



**Program to be held at
The Chapel,
Cheektowaga Campus
200 Thruway Plaza Dr,
Cheektowaga, NY 14225**

INTERVENTION SESSIONS

First group
planned to begin
on Thursday
evenings in March

Session Title	COACHES Practice Exercises
The Roots of Fathering	Follow your child's lead
The World of Feelings and Male Nurturance	Catch your child being good
The Power to Nurture: Fathering without Violence or Fear	Planned ignoring of minor behaviors and focusing on the positive
Overcoming Barriers to Nurturing Fathering: Anger and Stress	Choosing your battles
Discipline and Fun and Games	Structuring activities to promote child success
Teamwork between Father and Co-Parent	Co-parenting with a focus on the child's growth and feelings of security in mind
A Time and Place for Fathering	Putting it all together: Skills from previous sessions
Graduation Ceremony and Closing Activities	Father vs. Child (let the kids win!)

Support Families

Think of two families you could refer and send them our website or contact form



Spread the Word!

Distribute our flyers
(E-mailed to you and we can drop off copies)

Build Networks Together

Follow us on social media!
Share information about the program with colleagues
Schedule a follow-up meeting with us

Ways to Help

[GO.FIU.EDU/FATHERS](https://go.fiu.edu/fathers)



@ccfwnyfiu



Center for Children and Families- WNY FIU

@PrenatalPerinatal

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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