National Training & Technical Assistance Center

fatherhood & father figures

CURRICULUM

1.7 Roles of Father Figures Reflection Activity

Reflection Activity

In this activity, you will be exploring a photography album and answering reflection questions about the pictures within the album. Over the course of six years, photographer Dirk Anschütz made it his goal to photograph the myriad forms of fatherhood present in America. Anschütz never had a father himself and was raised by a single mother. After his son Ray's birth, Anschütz was unsure of what kind of father he wanted to be because he did not have any blueprints in his own life to follow. So, he became deeply curious about how other dads were raising their kids, and his curiosity resulted in a six-year portrait project called **Fathers and Sons**. Click this link to view the gallery of photos from Fathers and Sons. As you move through this picture album, the invitation is to reflect about the **different roles father figures play** and **different forms of support** they provide.

Now, take a few minutes to write and reflect about the following questions:
1. Was there anything that had a particular impact on you? Was there anything that particularly surprised you?
2. What roles did father figures inhabit in these pictures? What are the forms of support that you saw or imagined in these pictures?

For questions 1-2, you are invited to submit your perspectives to our collective pool of answers from all practitioners on our Mentimeter link here.

3. What else did you notice in the photographs?
4. Are there any roles you think fathers want to play more often but do not get the chance to?

Note: *The photographer for this project, Dirk Anschütz, is strongly interested in photographing fathers who use this curriculum and adding their photographs to the collection! If you are a father engagement practitioner who knows fathers that would be willing to be photographed, or you are a father yourself, please contact Dirk directly at dirk@knipser.com. Dirk is based in New York City and is looking for fathers within ~100 miles of NYC.*