

## ABOUT OUR AGENCY

Family Services of North Alabama's mission is to inspire, empower, and promote positive parenting through education, resource networking, and related services, and to empower, educate, assist and provide advocacy for victims of sexual assault in Marshall County and surrounding areas through the agency's Sexual Assault Support Services program.

Family Services of North Alabama is a private, nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors made up of community volunteers.

Family Services of North Alabama is funded by United Way of Marshall County and community donations.



United Way  
of Marshall County



## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**Family Services of North Alabama**  
*provides*

*Fatherhood Initiative Programs in  
Marshall & Blount Counties of Alabama.*



Family Services of North Alabama

# Fatherhood Initiative Program



(256) 878-9159



# FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW

**The Fatherhood Initiative Program is a court ordered and voluntary program that is designed to assist fathers (and mothers) to put themselves in a financial and emotional position to better provide for their children.**

## ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- ◆ Referral to drug treatment
- ◆ GED classes
- ◆ Job skills training
- ◆ Resume-building
- ◆ Employment search services
- ◆ Parenting classes

## HOW TO BE A SPECIAL DAD...

- ◆ Find the time to be actively involved with your kids and their activities
- ◆ Say "I Love You" and other positive phrases every chance you get
- ◆ Be aware of your kids' lives. Ask them questions about their day, friends, school, dreams, etc.
- ◆ Respect your child's mother. Fathers and mothers who respect each other provide a better environment for their children.
- ◆ Hug your kids and show them how valuable they are to you.
- ◆ Treat your children as capable. Root them on. Be your child's biggest fan.
- ◆ Eat together. Sharing a meal together provides structure and an opportunity to discuss what is going with each of you.

## THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF FATHER INVOLVEMENT

In a study examining father involvement with 134 children of adolescent mothers over the first 10 years of life, researchers found that father-child contact was associated with better socio-emotional and academic functioning. The results indicated that children with more involved fathers experienced fewer behavioral problems and scored higher on reading achievement. This study showed the significance of the role of fathers in the lives of at-risk children, even in case of nonresident fathers.

*Source: Howard, K. S., Burke Lefever, J. E., Borkowski, J.G., & Whitman, T. L. (2006). Fathers' influence in the lives of children with adolescent mothers. Journal of Family Psychology, 20, 468- 476.*