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Personlighetsforstyrrelser med hovedvekt på narsissistisk problematikk i relasjon til barn

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Father absence is negative for girls development!

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The association is quite clear:

"There is a robust association between father absence-both physical and psychological-and accelerated reproductive development and sexual risk-taking in daughters" .

When a girl's family is disrupted, and her father leaves or is not close to her, she sees her future :

"Men don't stay for long, and her partner might not stick around either. So finding a man requires quick action. The sooner she is ready to have children, the better. She cannot consciously decide to enter puberty earlier, but her biology takes over, subconsciously. "

This would help facilitate what we call, in evolutionary sciences, a faster reproductive strategy.

In contrast, a girl who grows up in a family in which the bond

between her parents is more secure and who has a father who lives in the home might well (subconsciously) adopt a slower reproductive strategy. She might conclude that she can take a bit more time to start having children. She can be more thorough in her preparation.



If you're going to have two invested parents, you're investing more reproductive resources. If the expectation is you are not going to receive these investments, you should shift toward the faster strategy.

The situation has now begun to change. **The discovery of the father is one of the most important developments in the study of children and families.**

Yet the links between puberty and a father's presence are just associations. They do not reveal ***what causes these changes.***

Studies show that women became "more sexually unrestricted" after recalling an incident in which their father was disengaged. ***The effect was limited to sex.*** Early experience seems to "set" the

reproductive strategy that girls use later in their lives.

In a series of studies beginning in 1999, Bruce J. Ellis found that when girls had a warm relationship with their fathers and spent a lot of time with them in the first five to seven years of their lives, they had a reduced risk of early puberty, early initiation of sex and teen pregnancy. Yet he could not determine whether the parental behavior *caused* the consequences he was seeing in the daughters.

Was the age at which girls had their first menstrual period affected by the length of time they spent with a father in the house? And did that age vary depending on how their fathers behaved?

The second question was added because fathers with a history of violence, depression, drug abuse or incarceration can affect children's development. Ellis's suspicions were confirmed. Younger sisters in divorced families had their first periods an average of 11 months earlier than their older sisters-but only in homes in which the men behaved badly as fathers.



The conclusion was that growing up with emotionally or physically

distant fathers in early to middle childhood could be "**a key life transition**" that alters sexual development.

Risky sexual behavior was not related to how long daughters lived with their fathers but to what the fathers did in the time they spent with their daughters. "**Girls who grew up with a high-quality father-who spent more time as a high-investing father-showed the lowest level of risky sexual behavior**".

There is certainly evidence from animal research, in a number of species, that exposure to the pheromones of **unrelated males** can accelerate pubertal development and some evidence that exposure to pheromones of a **father can slow it down**.

One key feature of good parenting, however, is **to be accepting** of teenagers. Ronald P. Rohner of the University of Connecticut think that "**parental acceptance influences important aspects of personality**".

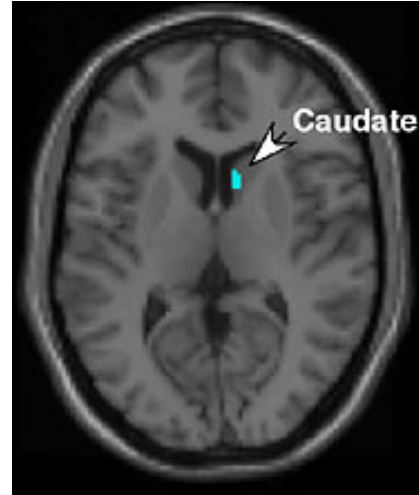
Children who are accepted by their parents are : **independent and emotionally stable, have strong self-esteem and hold a positive worldview**. Those who feel they were rejected show the opposite : **hostility, feelings of inadequacy, instability and a negative worldview**.

Rohner analyzed data from 36 studies on parental acceptance and rejection and found that they supported his theory. Both maternal and paternal acceptance were associated with these personality characteristics: **A father's love and acceptance are, in this regard, at least as important as a mother's love and acceptance**.

Empathy is another characteristic that we hope teenagers will develop, and fathers seem to have a surprisingly important role here, too.

Richard Koestner, a psychologist at McGill University, wrote : "**We were amazed to find that how affectionate parents were with their children made no difference in empathy, and we**

were astounded at how strong the father's influence was".



A team at the University of Toronto put adults in a functional MRI scanner to assess their reactions to their parents' faces. Mothers' faces elicited more activity in several parts of the brain, including some associated with *face processing*. The faces of fathers, in contrast, elicited activity in the caudate, a structure associated with *feelings of love*.

The evidence shows that fathers make unique contributions to their children.

The child needs to feel safe and secure in his or her environment to grow intellectually and emotionally. The key element seems to be that ***commitments are enduring***. The harsh reality, though, is that the primary parent in a fractured family often struggles to find someone who can shoulder a decade or more of unflagging support.

Focusing on the men alone turned out to be a waste of money and research efforts. Studies find that the best way to support the mother is not to deal with the father separately but to deal with him in context with her.

A positive relationship between caregivers can have a major impact on a child's psychological development. In a 2013 study of

African-American families, researchers at the University of Vermont and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found that the better the relationship between a single mother and her primary helper, the fewer mental health and behavioral problems in the children.

Studies show that the **quality** of fathers involvement appears to matter more for children than the **quantity**. Fathers involvement in children's lives is therefore important for the children, even when they don't live with the mother. **Blocking this involvement is therefore damaging to children's development.**

In a 2013 study of fathers living apart from their biological children, for instance, scientists at the University of Connecticut and Tufts University found that **neither monetary contributions nor the frequency of visits had a significant effect on the child's well-being**. Rather, **the critical factor was how often the father engaged in child-centered activities**, such as helping with homework, playing together, or attending sports events and school plays. Mothers who block such activities damage the children's development.

Children living apart from their fathers, are less likely to receive the same exposure to cognitively stimulating activities.

Most studies of this kind of social relationships are made in normal groups. When normal parents behaviour can be so devastating, one can only imagine the devastating consequences on children if the mother has a personality disturbance as narcissistic disorder.