

## Case Study: Fathers and Kids Together (Marsden Community Primary School, Nelson, Lancashire)

**Marsden Community Primary is a larger than average primary school. Most pupils are of Asian British backgrounds. The last Ofsted report said: "The extensive links with the community through a wide range of visits and visitors and the outstanding extended services provision, add further significant enrichment to the curriculum."**

### What are we doing and why?

Many of the courses that the school offered to parents as part of its extended services had a high percentage of female attendees.

It was recognised that not many fathers were engaging and benefitting from the extended services. We felt that attitudes needed changing to get fathers more involved in joint activities with the primary school aged children.

To address this a fathers and children group was set up (Fathers & Kids Together – FAKT). The aim of these sessions is to encourage fathers to be more involved with their child and vice versa.



*'Wuds 4 Fun' Crown Green Bowling at a local Bowling Green*



*Visit to Whitehough Outdoor Education Centre (Burnley)*

Many fathers now view the FAKT group as a social network where they have the opportunity to meet other fathers and participate in a variety of activities with their child(ren). The confidence of the fathers attending the group has significantly increased.

The 'Fathers & Kids Together' group meets once a week during school term time. The project is a partnership between the school and two local Sure Start Children Centres.

Sessions take place after school. Fathers and children have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities.

These include the following:

- Healthy Cook and Eat sessions
- Arts and crafts
- Sports sessions
- ICT sessions
- Outdoor pursuits
- Visits to allotments
- Crown green bowling



*Cook & Eat session*

Staff from all three organisations facilitate each session. This allows fathers and children from the Children Centres and local neighbouring schools to attend and benefit from the sessions.

## What has happened as a result?

- The school is now viewed as "father friendly". There is a good attendance from fathers and children at each session
- Fathers attending the group are informed of relevant opportunities in school and the local community and we work closely with other providers to facilitate this
- Most of the fathers have successfully completed an emergency first aid course: some fathers have also attended Adult learning courses at the school
- Many more fathers now attend parent consultation evenings and curriculum related events such as science and literacy and numeracy afternoons
- Most of the fathers that have regularly attended the group participated in a family learning residential at Borwick Hall



*Family Learning Residential at Borwick Hall (Lancaster)*



### TOP TIP



Ensure staff who facilitate the sessions are multidisciplinary and have a variety of skills to offer the group