



# TEA-BREAK GUIDE



*Expect fathers to be involved and persist with contacting them. Fathers and social workers are often suspicious of each other, and it is too easy to give up or assume the father isn't interested. Brandon et al, 2017*

### Things to consider when engaging with fathers / male role models:

- **Be respectful.** Communicate respect to encourage engagement.
- **Be consistent** in what you say and how you treat fathers.
- **Be reliable.** Do what you say you will do. Keep fathers up to date on what's happening.
- **Be available.** Men's experience is that professionals can be difficult to contact and 'hard to reach'. This can make forming positive relationships with professionals difficult.
- **Be honest** with both parents about the father's involvement, especially about concerns as well as the positives.
- **Be empathetic.** Listen to the father's perspective. Recognise that many fathers are vulnerable with the potential to withdraw from engaging or be threatening as a form of defence.
- **Be flexible.** Consider where a father lives and the distance he must travel when inviting him to meetings.
- **Be aware** of and consider how power, gender relations and personal experience (of your own father or partner, or of being a father) may be shaping your perspective and influencing your practice.
- **Be knowledgeable.** Know the law in relation to fathers and paternal responsibility.
- **Be safe.** Work with your manager and your team to develop safety plans, strategies and approaches when engaging violent or abusive men. Do not minimise domestic abuse.

Remember to promote the DadPad App to Fathers / Male Role Models – Available [here](#)