

Parental benefits

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It takes two people to make a child. The simple act of sexual intercourse. Can make for a very big change in those two same people's lives. Of course you need one female and one male to make a child. Yes, there are other ways to make a baby, but I just want to focus on this type of child creation and the importance of those two people that made the child. What types of guidance does a child need when growing up? Who will the child learn from? These are some of the many things people need to think about before bringing a child into this world and better yet who is going to take care of the child once they are here. Hopefully it will be the child's two parents and I'm going to explain why that is.

Have you ever thought about becoming a parent? This is a very big responsibility that some people dream of and some people have become parents and realized they just aren't ready to become parents because they're either too young. Don't feel as though they can handle being a parent or just because they simply don't want to. There is nothing wrong with feeling like you're not ready to be a parent and it is okay if you don't want to become a parent. But for those of us that want to be parents and want to help in the growth and development of a child we need to know some of the many things that are going to impact the child throughout their childhood and will also impact their future. Our children will build a foundation with our help to be a starting point of where they're going to go from there. When I say they are building a foundation that is because they are. They are staring from the ground up. They are going to watch and learn and absorb everything around them. Using it as tools to add to themselves and who they will become.

They might not know that they are using us as examples of who they are going to act like and be like when they grow up. But they will for sure have a personality that will closely relate to the people that it grew up with.

How many children do you want? Do you want to be a parent at all? It is not for everyone and that is okay. But at some point in your life you will be around children in some way whether it is living with roommates that have a kid or you might have younger siblings that you will have an impact upon. There are many different ways that could lead to you having an interaction with a child in some way. Let's just hope that you try to make it positive in some way.

Now if you decide to bring a child into this world are you planning to be there for their whole life? Because that's just about how long they're going to need you for. As soon as a child is brought into this world it is going to need its parents or caretakers. It will need food and warmth and love. A child needs to be held in order to feel safe and content in its new and fragile world. When a child is first learning what it needs and wants it will learn how to cry on demand for certain things. When a baby is tired it will cry for a feeding of milk or formula. It will cry when it wants to be held by you and when it doesn't want to be held. It will even cry when it is tired and ready to sleep. Every child is different and will do things slightly different from other children. It is your job and responsibility as a parent to learn what the child needs and wants and how you're going to help them achieve their needs.

A mother usually tends to have what the baby needs from the very beginning. The mother's heart beat is something that the baby will usually find comfort in because they have heard this

safe and comforting sound from when they were still in their mother's womb and also mothers usually produce breast milk that the child will be able to consume for their meals as they start to eat and grow. So most commonly the child is more reliant on their mother for their needs to be met. However a father or second parent can be very helpful in supporting the mother to maintain her health and well-being so that she can still provide for the baby. Their second parent can also help to clean and support the child while the mother rests and takes care of her basic needs so she can still care for the baby without burning herself out. Babies need care twenty-four hours a day when they are first born then it slowly lessens as they start to sleep through the night. Having two people to care for it together makes things a lot easier on both of the parent as well as the child itself.

Now you may not think that the child is watching you and learning from you at this point in its life but it has already learned how to cry on demand for what it wants. We have taught the child to cry for a response. It is the first way the child has learned to communicate with us. This is how we can tell that the babe is already learning from its environment. As the child gets bigger it will start to pull together other forms of communication from its environment. Mostly its environment is their mother and father. Having those two parents working together to care for the child will give two forms of examples to watch so the child can start to learn other ways to communicate once the baby has become old enough and absorbed enough to be able to start to talk. Sometimes it will start out with its first word. Calling for one parent by its newly given parent name. Like mom and dad or mama and daddy. Now let's fast forward a bit. The child has now learned to be able to tell you it needs things like a snack because they're hungry. This is a

big step when they have learned enough to communicate well enough to tell you what they want and need.

Having two people to listen to is huge because it is able to watch the communication between both parents. Now this is another very important thing that parents should pay attention to when caring for a child. They need to be careful about how they communicate with one another. They need to be sure that if they are going to have an argument it is best to not do it in front of the child. In a perfect world that would happen but usually they might be fighting about matters regarding the child and they could be about the other parents parenting skills. This is not something that the child should be exposed to because they will not be able to understand why their parents are fighting and it can make the child question the situation and can upset the child. So how the parents speak to each other is very important because their child will still be absorbing everything that is happening between them.

So having two parents to lead by example for a child is a wonderful thing because they have the ability to see how to care for someone besides themselves. If a child is able to see each parent taking care of one another they are able to witness the love and caring that the parents have for one another and this child will learn ways to comfort someone or care for someone. So for example if the child's mother is crying after a rough day at work and she comes to the dad's side and he wraps her in a hug and the mother calms down and begins to feel better. The child can see that a hug from daddy to mommy made mommy feel better and so maybe next time the mother cries for any reason you might see the child run to its mother's side to hug her and try to comfort her as well. Now I don't believe it will happen in that simple way but in a similar way like that. A

child is constantly learning from its surroundings and it will pick up similar ways to care for others that it sees in front of itself. Another benefit of having two people to care for a child is that if both parents are caring for the child the other parent will be able to rest when they need to and there will still be a support for the child when one of them goes to work. Sometimes parents are able to work their schedules around to be sure someone is always with the child. Once the child becomes old enough to watch itself they will continue to learn what is okay and how to make themselves feel safe without their parents in the home. Sometimes this is things like locking the door when their parents are home. If a parent teaches their child about the safety of locking their door the child has learned how to make itself feel safe when their parents are there to make them feel safe.

For myself I have been lucky to grow up in a home where I grew up with my mom and dad together and I have two older brothers that I am able to learn from and still learning from. Even in my early adult life I am still learning from my environment. I am lucky to have learned many different kinds of responsibilities from caring for my own home to caring for my nephews that have been brought into my life. I of course have learned that my nephews are going to learn a lot from me too because they look up to me. They also still watch my relationship with their parents. I have two brothers that I learned from as well as both of my parents. I am very lucky to see how my parents interacted together and how they worked through their problems. I also mentioned that I learned so much from my older brothers because I did as well. Them being closer to my age and being people that I interacted with a lot in life I was able to pick up on the ways that they interacted with other people and different ways to grow into our community. This is another

thing that was a great benefit for myself and my siblings as well. Our parents had become big parts of our community and they were able to build a bigger environment for us to grow into.

Having a whole community to grow into is a huge resource because you can see the many different ways that other families do things. This became another great resource for all of us because we are able to see how other families communicate and how they function and we could learn how our families were different and also how they were similar. Like for example we have some close family friends that we grew up with. The 4 of us kids went to the same school. We were three brothers and he was an only child. We became very close to the point where we basically were four brothers. But we could learn about the differences about being an only child and he was able to see what it was like to have siblings and he could learn the many different ways that we interacted with each other. We are still all very close even today. We have made a bond that will last a lifetime and my brother's children and his child have become friends and I'm sure that they will end up becoming lifelong friends because they will see their parents' friendships and it will teach them about becoming friends and continuing their friendship.

I think having two parents is a gift for me personally because my dad taught me so many things that I will always remember like how to fix things and how to build things like how to build a wall of putting up sheetrock. Whereas my mom taught me how to do all kinds of home skills like cooking and baking and cleaning and how to grocery shop. Of course both parents taught me how to do some of these things together but both parents are strong in different categories and so we learned some from mom and some from dad and I think that made it very beneficial for my brothers and I because we have all learned very helpful skills that will last the

rest of our lives. I wonder how difficult and different our lives would be if we didn't grow up with two parents in the home. Would we still be the same people we are today? I don't think so. Both parents had an impact on who we are today. We were able to have good interactions with both of our parents because they both worked. We had someone here with us and we grew up. Whereas if we only had one parent at home with us or only one parent working and the other parent not the picture we would have had the same experiences and we wouldn't have had the same time to spend with our parents and we wouldn't have been able to learn as much as we did. If our parents were always working when would they have had the time to teach us how to take care of ourselves? I know it would've taught us to grow up and mature differently. We would have learned to do more on our own or maybe we wouldn't have. We might have actually declined because we didn't have the same role models and teachers to teach us how to do things and if our parents were always working how could they teach us? More responsibility would have fallen on our older sibling.

"Marriage is good for children." (Smith 2020) This is such a strong statement that I have to agree with I think for children to be able to see two people that have come together to build a family together is a wonderful thing. People are so different and for them to work through their differences and to build together is wonderful for children to see and later as young adults to learn from. Like me I know my parents are two different people but they have worked very hard together to build a nice home for their children and to teach us what we needed to be successful in our lives. I think seeing them in a marriage is what made us three kids want to grow up and get married as well. Because our parents led by example. Of course they had their differences and didn't always get along. But how they worked through it and have stayed together is a wonderful

thing for us to learn from as well. We know to work through things and that nothing is perfect and that is okay.

How could we know that watching our parents interacting together could impact our lives so much. Like no one ever had to straight out tell us that we needed to watch our parents and how they function and how they do things in order to learn who we are today. I think it just goes to show you that we are definitely a product of our own environment. We had the tools and resources around us to become who we are today and we did. Now the fact that our parents have been married for a long time I think also gives us another upper hand because we know that a long life with someone else is possible and we will have our parents to ask for help and guidance as we need it throughout our life. I have learned that my mother has also been a resource for my sister in law because they are both mothers and she is able to ask my mom for help and guidance when it comes to raising her kids and my brother is able to ask our mother for help and advice with the kids as well. Because it really does take a village to raise a family. With that statement it shows you again that having more than one parent as a resource in your life is a good thing because there are more people in the village helping to develop the child's environment.

"Marriage is still the best means of binding a father to his children."(DePaulo 2020) this quote stood out to me a lot and I can say that I strongly disagree with it. If a father or a mother wants to be a part of their child's life they will be a part of their life. A marriage between the parents is not going to keep them together and it is not going to keep a parent in the child's life. A parent has free will and they will stay in their child's life if they want to stay there. If the parents aren't getting along they need to do what is best for the child and do what they can to make things

easier on each other. Sometimes that means separating and that is okay. But just because they are separate doesn't mean that they can't be a part of the child's life. If either parent wants to be involved they will do what they can to be there. Although things can become harder between the parents they need to grow up and learn that it is better for the child to have both parents in their life so that they don't feel abandoned or forgotten by the other parent and the parent should never bad mouth the other parent to the child. The child doesn't understand what is going on and they should have bad feelings towards their parent because they're aren't getting along with the other parent.

When I mentioned that it takes a village to raise a family I should explain the many members that can be a part of that village. People don't always think about the many people that their children interact with while they are growing up. They learn things from their teachers in school and they learn from their classmates that they interact with on the daily basis. Teachers actually teach children a lot more than just what they teach from the textbook. Teacher can teach responsibilities when they have students pick up after themselves. They also teach us how to share with other students which can be very beneficial for children that are in a single child home. When children can learn and grow with other students they are able to develop many more skills and strengthen their communication skills. We also have other people that we learn so much from like when your child is in the community with you they will see how other people interact with you and how you interact with other people around you and this is a good way for us to learn how we should act in our communities.

This is just a few reasons as to why there are many benefits to a child being raised with two parents instead of one. Children and young adults need so much from their parents to help get them to a point in their life where they are able to take care of themselves. If a child is able to have a strong foundation from birth they have a much better chance at life and learning to grow into our world. If they don't have a strong foundation they will have to learn these skills later and will possibly end up behind where they should be. It is a good thing for people to grow as they go through life and having the tools to do so makes it all that much easier. If you ever decide to become a parent, think about who you are having your child with and be sure that you both are on the same page and know that you will be there for the child for its whole life. Because a child is going to need you for a long time and having you there for then will make all the difference.

Resources

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