## Early Relationships Matter

### The Parallel Journeys of Fathers and Their Children Across the Early Years

The field of infant/early childhood mental health focuses on centering caregiver-child relationships to promote positive child development. During this event, we will explore the developmental, emotional, and relational journeys of babies/young children and their fathers during the early years. We will reflect on how men are prepared and supported in becoming and being fathers, and how these experiences impact father-child relationships. The discussion will focus on the essential need to value, honor, and support the relationships between fathers and their children, and the ways in which providers and systems of care can bring intentionality to these efforts.

#### **Presenters**

#### **Bridget Lecheile**

Training Manager,
Washington Association for
Infant Mental Health

With years of experience in early development, family relationships, and gender development, Bridget facilitates trainings for early childhood professionals throughout the state. She is a parent of seven and grandparent of four.

#### **Byron Jackson**

Parent Leader,
Washington's Prenatal to 5
Relational Health Subgroup

Byron Jackson is a small business owner and father to three children. He is an advocate for early learning education and culturally and developmentally appropriate supports and services for all young children.



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Register here for this free event on Thursday, Feb. 10