

Welcome to the Fathers Matter in Home Visiting

Dad Allies Learning Series
Session

October 29, 2021

Jennifer Bellamy

Guilmar Hernandez

Holly Schindler

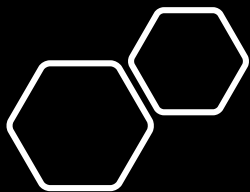
Anne Stone

**Interagency
Fatherhood
Council**
Washington



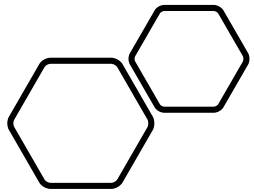
**Thomas V.
Giddens Jr.
Foundation**





Agenda

- Introduction to Home Visiting
- Dads Matter HV
- FIND
- Interview with Guilmar Hernandez and Anne Stone
- Q&A



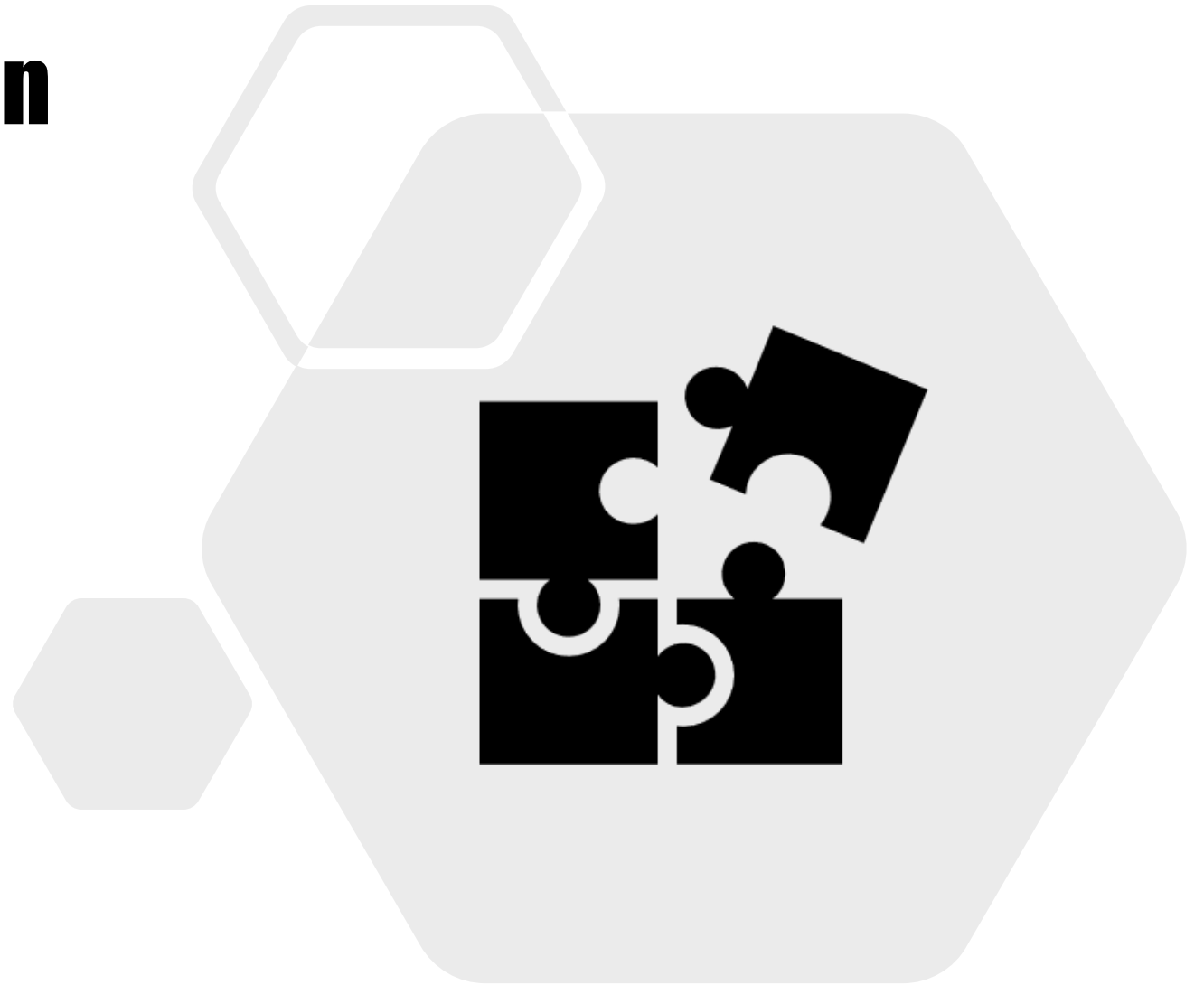
How confident are you in your father
engagement skills?

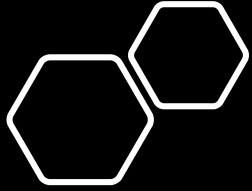
Poll



Why engage fathers in home visiting?

- Fathers and family outcomes
- Importance of mother-father co-parenting relationship
- Growth and reach of home visitation





Evidence-Supported HV and Fathers

- Evidence-supported home visiting programs were initially designed for mothers and babies
- Few father-inclusive or father-specific home visiting programs
- Emerging interventions:
 - Dads Matter-Home Visiting (Dads Matter-HV)
 - Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND-F)



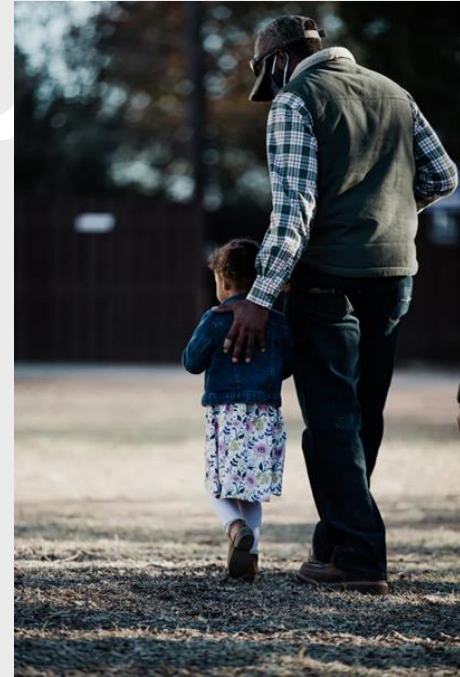
Engaging Fathers in Home Visiting Services Dads Matter-HV

Dads Matter Team: Jennifer Bellamy, Neil Guterman, Aaron Banman, Justin Harty, and Sandra Mirque-Morales



Poll

What do you think is the most common barrier to father engagement in home visiting?

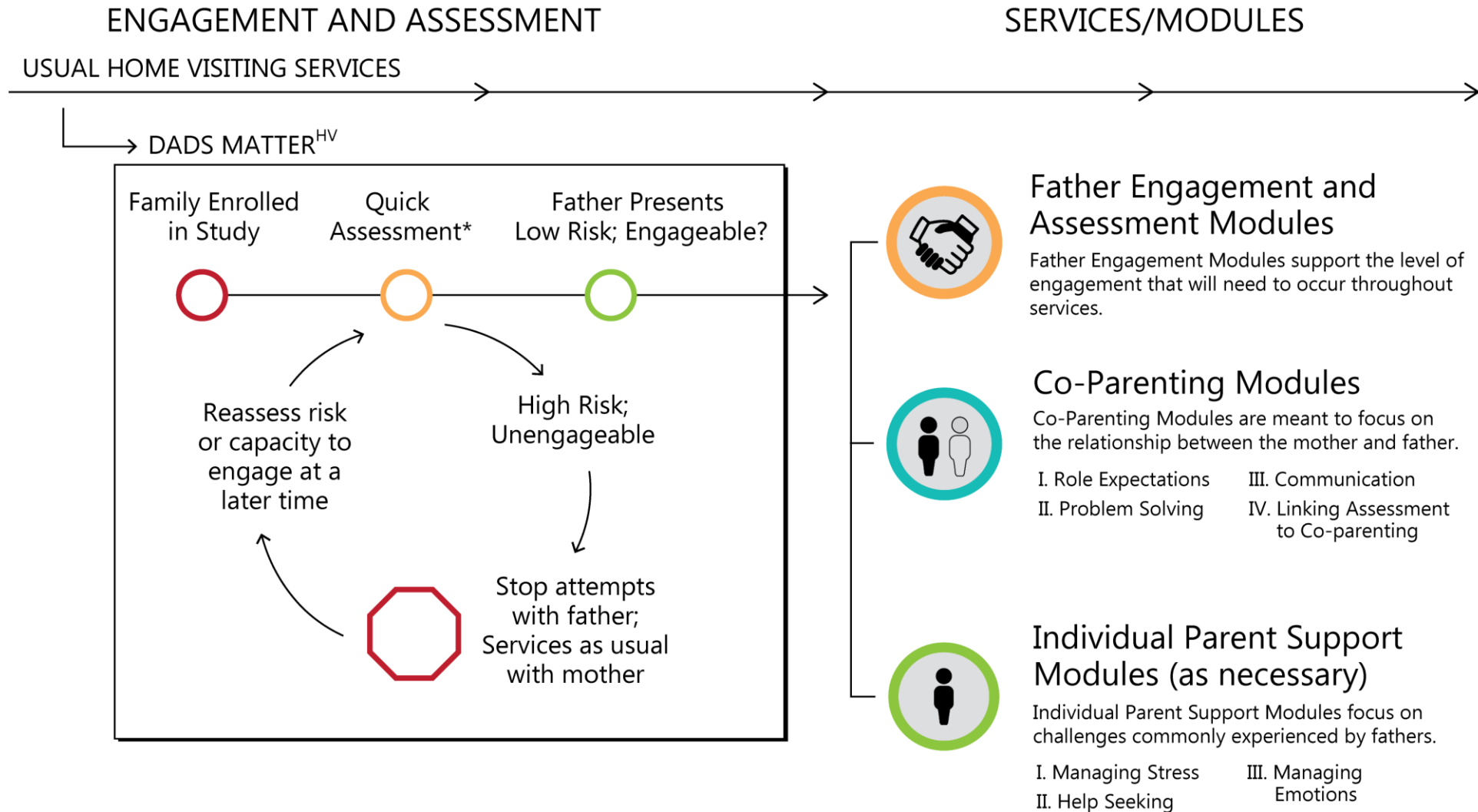


Surveys with Home Visitors

- Workers espouse generally positive attitudes and expectations about working with fathers and mothers together in home visiting, but say:
 - Lack of time
 - Perception that fathers do not want to participate
 - Lack of training
 - Worry that if they work with fathers, it will take away from their work with mothers

....Prevents them from engaging fathers.

The Dads Matter HV Model



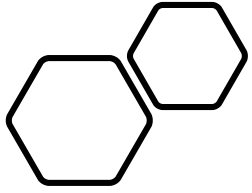
FATHER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES-Control Group

- Incentives
- Leave him information
- Tell him he's needed/important
- Communicate through mom



FATHER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES- Intervention Group

- Talk to him
- Make eye contact
- Leave things for him
- Communicate through Mom
- Specifically/explicitly invite him
- Tell him he's needed/important
- Referrals (jobs etc.)
- Using hands-on activities
- Use technology
- Being there/consistent/building trust
- Giving him information
- Providing opportunities to interact with other dads
- Explaining benefits of his involvement
- Using "other" activities: holiday parties, family events, etc.
- Respect/acknowledge his expertise
- Consider schedules



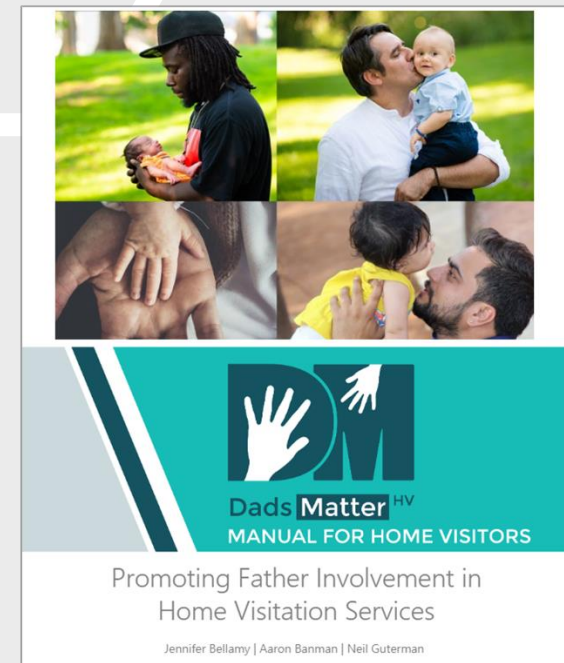
Take Aways

- Fathers and mothers can be engaged together in home visiting services, but it takes:
 - Flexibility
 - Creativity
 - Persistence
- Home visitors will state that they generally value fathers, but they need consistent support and encouragement to identify and address barriers
 - Practice
 - Training on specific strategies
 - Cueing/asking
 - Supervision/leadership



Thank you!

Questions?
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Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND-F)

*A strength-based video coaching program with fathers
and their young children*

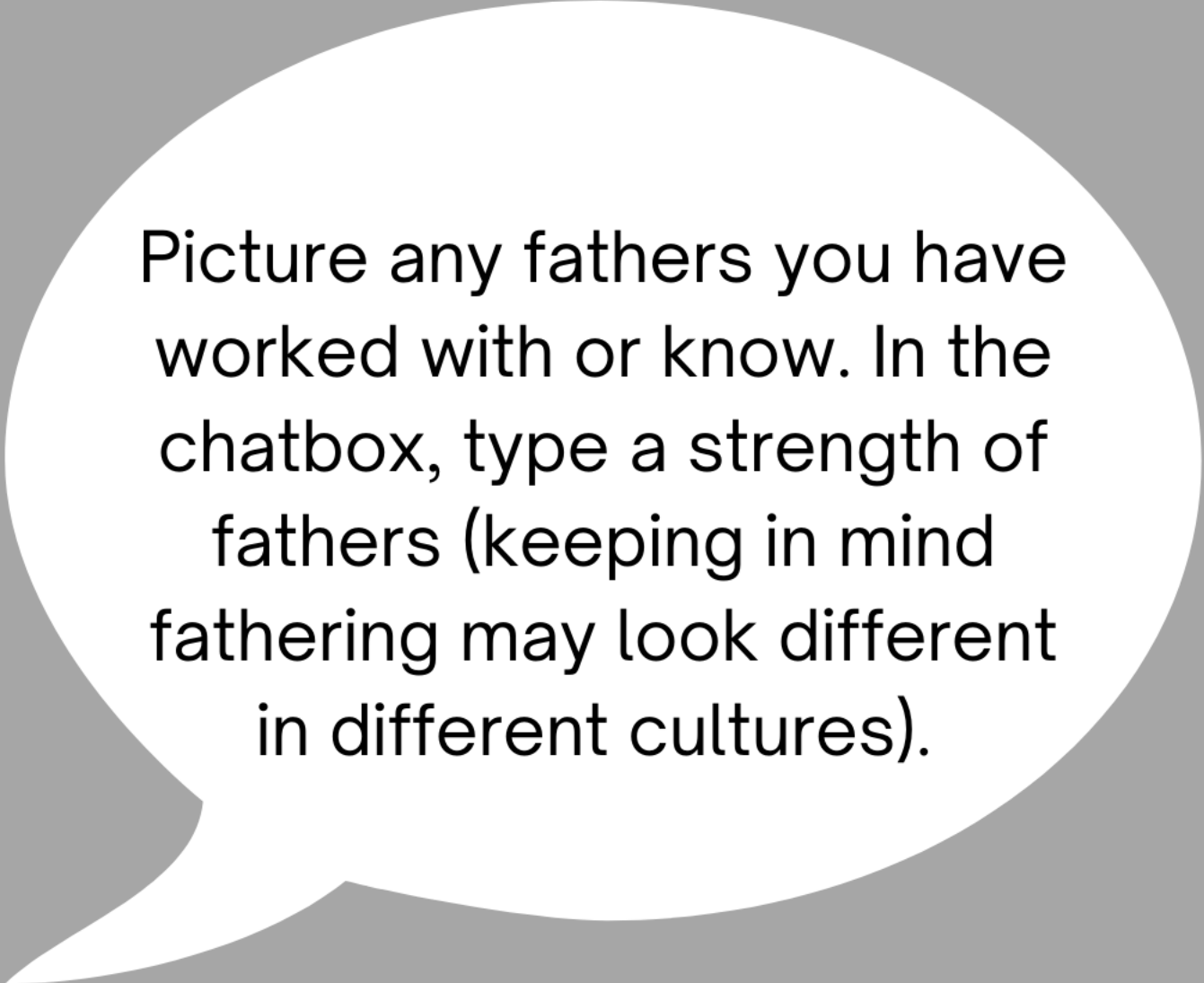
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Chat Box Check-in

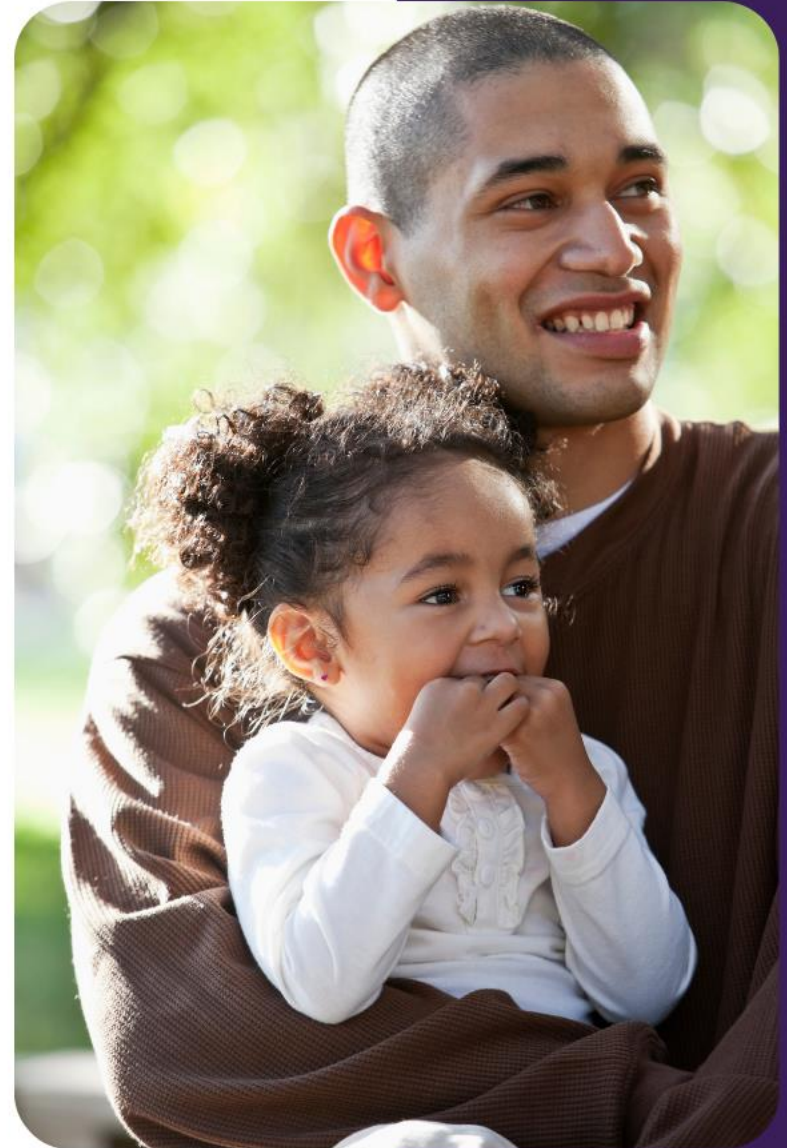


Picture any fathers you have worked with or know. In the chatbox, type a strength of fathers (keeping in mind fathering may look different in different cultures).

Home Visiting as a Promising Delivery System

Over 70% of children in Early Head Start home visiting programs have a resident father or father figure.

Fathers place a high priority on **relationships with their children** - often describing it as the "most important thing of all."



Why a Separate Program with Fathers?



Helpful to have a menu of options

Family services historically less focused on fathers

Shifting work schedules

About FIND-F

Adapted for Male Caregivers

Adapted specifically for fathers, building from the original FIND program developed by Dr. Phil Fisher

Strength-Based

Uses video to reinforce naturally occurring interactions between fathers and their young children

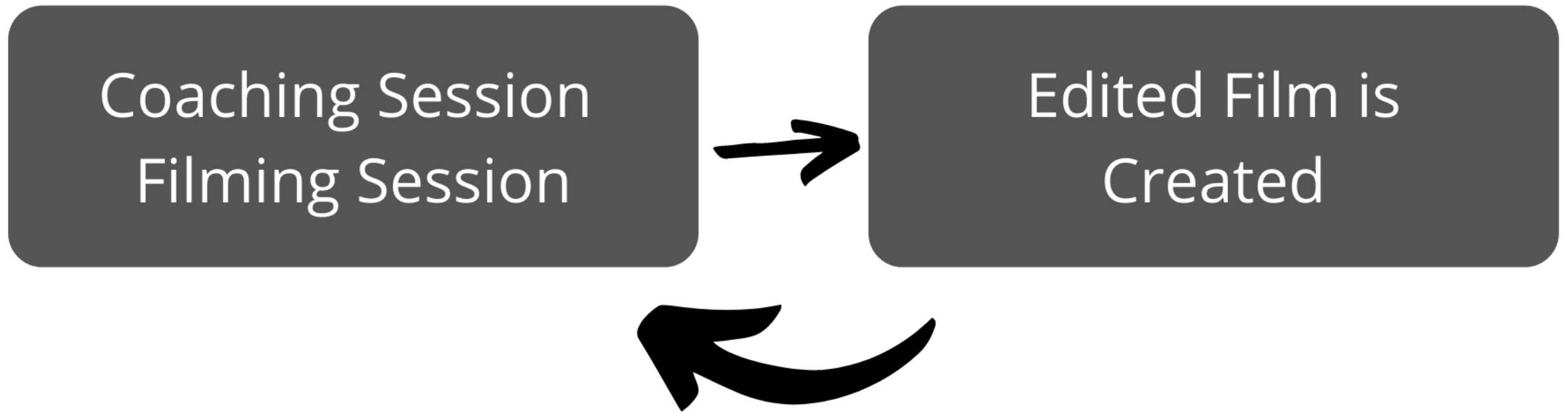
Brief and Flexible

6-week program offered through home visits at flexible times of day

Focuses on fathers but other family members welcome to join

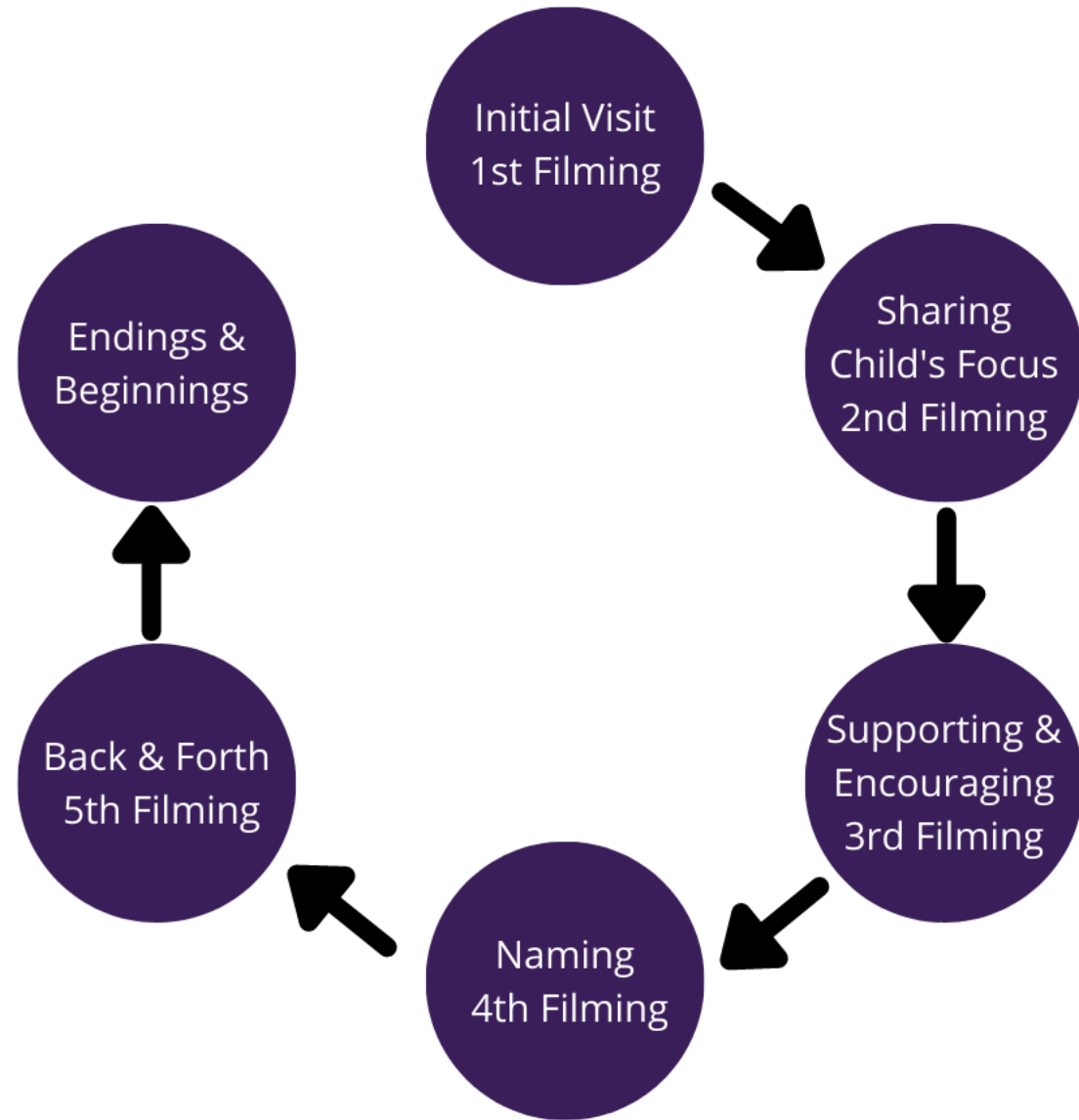


The FIND-F Process



The FIND-F Elements

Each element builds on the concept of "serve and return" interactions.



Findings Across 2 Evaluations



Fathers' encouragement increased



Fathers' Identity as a father increased



Fathers' parenting stress decreased



Children's behavioral challenges (reported by fathers) decreased



Relationship between increases in fathers' encouragement and decreases in reported behavioral challenges

Take-Aways

A flexible, strength-based program can be attractive to fathers with young children

FIND-F was feasible to implement in the context of home visits

Video coaching offers one promising approach to supporting fathers

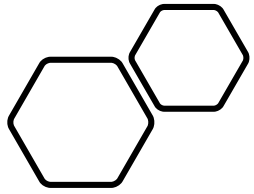
Thank You!

Fathers, Partners, and Funders

Children's Home Society of Washington
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Foundation for Child Development

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Interview with Guilmar Hernandez and Anne Stone



Question and Answer

