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Father involvement with children and couple relationships - Tables

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These tables accompany the briefing paper “Father involvement with children and couple relationships” <http://www.modernfatherhood.org/publications/>

The data is from Wave 1 of the UK-wide survey Understanding Society (2009-11).

Table conventions

- All data has been weighted using survey weights, however weighted bases are not shown
- All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent
- Where the per cent is less than 0.5 but greater than 0 - a '+' symbol is shown
- Where there are no cases in the category a '0' is shown
- Statistical significance is indicated by * <5% ** <1% *** <0.1%

Factor scores

- 'Couple interaction' - doing things with partner – a higher factor score indicates more activities done with their partner
- 'Couple stress' - negative relationship factors - a higher factor score indicates less negative relationship factors
- 'Couple bliss' - positive relationship factors - a higher factor score indicates more positive relationship factors

Parents and their children

Table 1 How often praises children

Base: Parents living with a partner and a resident child aged under 16 years old

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Never	+	+	+
Seldom	2	+	1
Sometimes	21	10	16
Very often	77	89	83
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4,126	5,397	9,523

Table 2 How often talks to children about things that are important to them

Base: Parents living with a partner and a resident child aged 5-15 year old

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Most days	47	70	59
More than once a week	29	20	25
Less than once a week	14	7	10
Hardly ever	10	3	6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	2,958	3,981	6,939

Table 3 How often shouts at children

Base: Parents living with a partner and a resident child aged under 16 years old

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Never	13	9	11
Seldom	26	20	23
Sometimes	46	51	49
Very often	15	20	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4,130	5,401	9,531

Table 4 How often eats dinner with children

Base: Parents living with a partner and a resident child aged under 16 years old

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
None	5	4	4
1 - 2 times a week	14	9	12
3 - 5 times a week	22	18	20
6 - 7 times a week	59	68	64
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,128</i>	<i>5,400</i>	<i>9,528</i>

Table 5 How often helps child with their homework

Base: Parents living with a partner and a resident child aged 10-15 year old

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Almost every day	12	27	20
At least once a week	45	44	44
At least once a month	17	10	14
Less often than once a month	8	4	6
Never or hardly ever	17	13	15
No homework	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,954</i>	<i>2,603</i>	<i>4,557</i>

Parental relationships

Table 6 How often has a stimulating exchange of ideas with partner

<i>Base: Parents living with a partner</i>			
	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Never	2	3	2
Less than once a month	6	7	7
Once or twice a month	16	15	15
Once or twice a week	37	35	36
Once a day	21	21	21
More often	19	19	19
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,386</i>	<i>5,781</i>	<i>10,167</i>

Table 7 How often calmly discusses things with partner

<i>Base: Parents living with a partner</i>			
	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Never	1	2	1
Less than once a month	3	5	4
Once or twice a month	10	10	10
Once or twice a week	27	26	27
Once a day	30	29	30
More often	29	28	28
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,390</i>	<i>5,795</i>	<i>10,185</i>

Table 8 How often works on a project together with their partner

Base: Parents living with a partner

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Never	4	6	5
Less than once a month	11	12	12
Once or twice a month	19	20	20
Once or twice a week	28	25	26
Once a day	14	14	14
More often	24	25	24
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,393</i>	<i>5,798</i>	<i>10,191</i>

Table 9 How often they have discussed or considered divorce, separation or terminating their relationship

Base: Parents living with a partner

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
All of the time	1	1	1
Most of the time	1	1	1
More often than not	2	2	2
Occasionally	6	9	8
Rarely	24	24	24
Never	67	62	65
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,396</i>	<i>5,814</i>	<i>10,210</i>

Table 10 How often they have regretted getting married or living together

Base: Parents living with a partner

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
All of the time	1	1	1
Most of the time	1	1	1
More often than not	1	1	1
Occasionally	5	8	7
Rarely	16	17	16
Never	77	72	75
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4,393	5,798	10,191

Table 11 How often they quarrel with their partner

Base: Parents living with a partner

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
All of the time	+	1	1
Most of the time	2	2	2
More often than not	4	6	5
Occasionally	45	45	45
Rarely	41	39	40
Never	8	6	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4,386	5,784	10,170

Table 12 How often they and their partner 'get on each others nerves'

Base: Parents living with a partner

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
All of the time	1	1	1
Most of the time	3	3	3
More often than not	5	8	6
Occasionally	48	51	49
Rarely	35	31	33
Never	9	6	7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4,383	5,789	10,172

Table 13 How often they and their partner kiss

Base: Parents living with a partner

	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
All of the time	38	39	38
Most of the time	30	28	29
More often than not	15	14	14
Occasionally	13	13	13
Rarely	3	4	4
Never	1	2	2
<i>Unweighted base</i>	4,363	5,743	10,106

Table 14 Whether they engage in outside interests with their partner

<i>Base: Parents living with a partner</i>			
	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
All of them	6	7	7
Most of them	27	28	27
Some of them	45	42	44
Very few of them	18	16	17
None of them	5	6	5
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,404</i>	<i>5,818</i>	<i>10,222</i>

Table 15 Happiness with relationship¹

<i>Base: Parents living with a partner</i>			
	Couple fathers	Couple mothers	Total
	%	%	%
Extremely unhappy	2	3	2
Fairly unhappy	2	3	2
A little unhappy	5	7	6
Happy	23	23	23
Very happy	29	26	28
Extremely happy	30	30	30
Perfect	9	9	9
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>4,419</i>	<i>5,818</i>	<i>10,237</i>

¹ Where the average relationship would be described as 'happy'

Table 16 Linear regression models for relationship factors and father characteristics

Base: Fathers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=3,621]

	Doing things with partner		Negative relationship factors (higher score=less negative)		Positive relationship factors (higher score=more positive)	
	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE
Age of father	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.00
Age of partner	*-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.01	0.00
Ethnicity of father [baseline=White British]						
Asian	0.12	0.07	**0.16	0.06	***-0.56	0.06
Black	***0.42	0.10	-0.10	0.12	***-0.44	0.09
Other	0.01	0.07	-0.07	0.08	-0.10	0.07
Education of father [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	-0.02	0.06	-0.09	0.06	-0.11	0.06
GCSE or equivalent	-0.08	0.04	-0.04	0.04	-0.04	0.04
None	-0.11	0.06	0.00	0.06	-0.04	0.06
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	-0.02	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05
GCSE or equivalent	-0.08	0.04	0.03	0.04	-0.01	0.04
None	-0.22	0.07	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.06
Working status of father [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.06	0.06	***-0.27	0.07	-0.02	0.05
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.01	0.04	-0.02	0.04	-0.01	0.04
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	*-0.11	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.05
5-11 years	0.00	0.05	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.05
12-15 years	0.07	0.07	0.18	0.07	0.07	0.07
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	-0.06	0.04	0.00	0.04	**0.10	0.04
3 or more	0.09	0.05	-0.02	0.05	-0.08	0.05
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	0.01	0.04	*0.11	0.05	***0.16	0.04

Table 17 Linear regression models for relationship factors and mother characteristics

Base: Mothers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=4,105]

	Doing things with partner		Negative relationship factors (higher score=less negative)		Positive relationship factors (higher score=more positive)	
	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE	Coef.	SE
Age of mother	*-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	***-0.02	0.00
Age of partner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	***-0.01	0.00
Ethnicity of mother [baseline=White British]						
Asian	0.08	0.06	0.00	0.06	***-0.57	0.06
Black	***0.37	0.09	-0.01	0.10	***-0.41	0.09
Other	***0.20	0.06	-0.06	0.07	*-0.11	0.05
Education of mother [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	-0.06	0.05	0.01	0.06	-0.03	0.05
GCSE or equivalent	**0.12	0.04	***0.15	0.04	0.01	0.04
None	**0.21	0.07	0.14	0.07	0.04	0.07
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.01	0.06	-0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05
GCSE or equivalent	**0.13	0.04	-0.08	0.04	-0.02	0.04
None	*-0.13	0.06	-0.08	0.06	-0.07	0.06
Working status of mother [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	-0.06	0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.02	0.03
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	-0.01	0.06	***-0.25	0.06	-0.09	0.05
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.11	0.05
5-11 years	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.08	0.05
12-15 years	0.16	0.06	0.11	0.07	0.13	0.07
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	-0.03	0.03	**0.10	0.04	-0.08	0.03
3 or more	**0.15	0.05	0.01	0.05	-0.06	0.04
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	0.05	0.04	***0.16	0.05	***0.17	0.04

Table 18 Logistic regression models for child involvement and doing things with your partner - fathers

Base: Fathers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=2,577]

	Talking with children		Praising children		Shouting at children	
	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE
Doing things with your partner (factor score)	***1.37	0.07	***1.28	0.06	0.96	0.04
Age of father	1.00	0.01	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.01
Age of partner	**0.97	0.01	0.99	0.01	1.00	0.01
Ethnicity of father [baseline=White British]						
Asian	1.08	0.17	***0.48	0.07	0.83	0.11
Black	0.95	0.22	0.71	0.18	**0.55	0.10
Other	1.24	0.22	1.24	0.26	0.82	0.12
Education of father [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.81	0.14	*0.68	0.12	**1.51	0.22
GCSE or equivalent	0.85	0.10	**0.69	0.08	**1.34	0.14
None	0.83	0.12	0.69	0.10	*1.39	0.19
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.94	0.15	1.01	0.17	0.97	0.13
GCSE or equivalent	0.99	0.11	**0.74	0.08	1.22	0.12
None	1.05	0.17	0.80	0.13	1.27	0.19
Working status of father [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	*1.36	0.19	1.17	0.16	*1.31	0.17
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.89	0.09	0.92	0.09	0.84	0.08
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.76	0.12	1.11	0.17	***0.41	0.05
5-11 years	*0.73	0.10	***0.52	0.08	0.81	0.12
12-15 years	***0.31	0.05	***0.24	0.04	*0.66	0.11
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	*0.75	0.09	*0.78	0.08	***2.56	0.22
3 or more	**0.64	0.09	***0.56	0.07	***4.23	0.51
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	**1.35	0.17	**1.45	0.18	*1.26	0.14

Table 19 Logistic regression models for child involvement and negative relationship factors - fathers

Base: Fathers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=2,577]

	Talking with children		Praising children		Shouting at children	
	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE
Negative relationship factors (higher factor score = less negative relationship)	0.97	0.04	1.05	0.05	***0.72	0.03
Age of father	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.01
Age of partner	**0.97	0.01	0.99	0.01	1.00	0.01
Ethnicity of father [baseline=White British]						
Asian	1.15	0.17	***0.48	0.07	0.87	0.12
Black	1.05	0.24	0.79	0.19	**0.52	0.10
Other	1.29	0.23	1.25	0.26	0.81	0.12
Education of father [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.80	0.14	*0.68	0.12	**1.49	0.22
GCSE or equivalent	0.84	0.10	**0.68	0.08	**1.33	0.14
None	0.81	0.12	**0.67	0.10	*1.40	0.19
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.95	0.15	1.00	0.16	0.98	0.13
GCSE or equivalent	0.97	0.11	**0.72	0.08	1.24	0.12
None	1.01	0.16	0.75	0.12	1.31	0.20
Working status of father [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	*1.36	0.19	1.19	0.16	1.21	0.16
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.89	0.09	0.93	0.09	0.84	0.08
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.78	0.12	1.14	0.17	***0.41	0.05
5-11 years	0.77	0.11	***0.54	0.08	0.84	0.12
12-15 years	***0.33	0.06	***0.25	0.05	*0.70	0.12
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	*0.75	0.09	**0.76	0.08	***2.62	0.23
3 or more	**0.66	0.10	***0.57	0.07	***4.30	0.53
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	*1.36	0.17	**1.45	0.18	*1.31	0.14

Table 20 Logistic regression models for child involvement and positive relationship factors - **fathers**

Base: Fathers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=2,577]

	Talking with children		Praising children		Shouting at children	
	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE
Positive relationship factors (factor score)	1.08	0.05	***1.23	0.06	1.07	0.05
Age of father	1.00	0.01	1.00	0.01	0.99	0.01
Age of partner	**0.97	0.01	0.99	0.01	1.00	0.01
Ethnicity of father [baseline=White British]						
Asian	1.21	0.19	***0.55	0.08	0.85	0.12
Black	1.09	0.25	*0.85	0.20	**0.55	0.11
Other	1.32	0.24	1.28	0.27	0.83	0.12
Education of father [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.82	0.14	*0.70	0.12	**1.52	0.22
GCSE or equivalent	0.85	0.10	**0.68	0.08	**1.34	0.14
None	0.81	0.12	*0.68	0.10	*1.40	0.19
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.93	0.15	0.99	0.16	0.97	0.13
GCSE or equivalent	0.97	0.11	**0.72	0.08	1.23	0.12
None	1.00	0.16	0.75	0.12	1.29	0.20
Working status of father [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	*1.38	0.19	1.19	0.16	*1.31	0.17
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.90	0.09	0.93	0.10	0.84	0.08
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.78	0.12	1.12	0.17	***0.41	0.05
5-11 years	0.76	0.11	***0.54	0.08	0.81	0.12
12-15 years	***0.33	0.06	***0.25	0.05	*0.66	0.11
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	*0.75	0.09	*0.78	0.08	***2.59	0.22
3 or more	**0.66	0.10	***0.58	0.07	***4.23	0.52
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	*1.34	0.17	**1.42	0.17	*1.25	0.14

Table 21 Logistic regression models for child involvement and doing things with your partner - mothers

Base: Mothers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=2,966]

	Talking with children		Praising children		Shouting at children	
	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE
Doing things with your partner (factor score)	***1.34	0.06	1.11	0.06	***0.85	0.04
Age of mother	0.98	0.01	0.98	0.01	1.01	0.01
Age of partner	1	0.01	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.01
Ethnicity of mother [baseline=White British]						
Asian	1.15	0.18	***0.40	0.07	1.21	0.17
Black	0.95	0.23	*0.51	0.13	0.91	0.18
Other	**1.77	0.35	0.68	0.14	0.89	0.12
Education of mother [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	1.08	0.17	1.1	0.24	0.98	0.13
GCSE or equivalent	0.96	0.1	**0.67	0.09	1.17	0.12
None	0.91	0.15	***0.52	0.10	1.18	0.19
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	0.99	0.17	0.87	0.17	1.29	0.19
GCSE or equivalent	1.03	0.12	0.98	0.13	1.29	0.13
None	0.81	0.11	0.78	0.13	1.09	0.14
Working status of mother [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	1.19	0.13	0.98	0.13	*0.81	0.07
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.85	0.12	0.95	0.16	1.18	0.15
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.76	0.13	0.85	0.18	***0.37	0.05
5-11 years	0.99	0.16	**0.57	0.12	0.93	0.14
12-15 years	***0.44	0.08	***0.28	0.06	***0.49	0.08
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						

Table 21 Logistic regression models for child involvement and doing things with your partner - **mothers**

2	0.79	0.09	0.96	0.12	***2.83	0.24
3 or more	0.75	0.11	0.72	0.11	***4.68	0.61
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	1.26	0.16	**1.52	0.22	0.91	0.10

Table 22 Logistic regression models for child involvement and negative relationship factors - mothers

Base: Mothers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=2,966]

	Talking with children		Praising children		Shouting at children	
	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE
Negative relationship factors (higher factor score=less negative relationship)	1.03	0.05	**1.14	0.06	***0.78	0.03
Age of mother	0.98	0.01	0.98	0.01	1.01	0.01
Age of partner	1	0.01	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.01
Ethnicity of mother [baseline=White British]						
Asian	1.17	0.18	***0.40	0.07	1.21	0.17
Black	1.06	0.25	*0.53	0.14	0.85	0.17
Other	**1.87	0.36	0.71	0.15	0.85	0.12
Education of mother [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	1.04	0.17	1.09	0.24	0.99	0.13
GCSE or equivalent	0.92	0.1	**0.65	0.09	1.24	0.13
None	0.86	0.14	***0.50	0.09	1.26	0.20
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	1	0.17	0.88	0.17	1.27	0.19
GCSE or equivalent	1	0.11	0.98	0.13	1.29	0.13
None	0.8	0.11	0.78	0.13	1.09	0.15
Working status of mother [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	1.17	0.12	0.98	0.13	*0.82	0.07
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.85	0.12	0.97	0.17	1.10	0.14
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.77	0.13	0.84	0.18	***0.37	0.05
5-11 years	1.01	0.16	**0.57	0.12	0.93	0.14
12-15 years	***0.47	0.08	***0.28	0.07	***0.49	0.08

Table 22 Logistic regression models for child involvement and negative relationship factors - **mothers**

Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	0.79	0.09	0.95	0.12	***2.94	0.25
3 or more	0.79	0.11	0.73	0.11	***4.64	0.60
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	1.28	0.16	**1.51	0.22	0.94	0.10

Table 23 Logistic regression models for child involvement and positive relationship factors - mothers

Base: Mothers living with a partner and children aged under 16 [N=2,966]

	Talking with children		Praising children		Shouting at children	
	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE	Odds ratio	SE
Positive relationship factors (factor score)	1.08	0.05	***1.23	0.07	1.00	0.04
Age of mother	0.98	0.01	0.99	0.01	1.01	0.01
Age of partner	1	0.01	0.99	0.01	0.99	0.01
Ethnicity of mother [baseline=White British]						
Asian	1.23	0.19	***0.46	0.08	1.19	0.16
Black	1.1	0.26	*0.58	0.16	0.85	0.17
Other	**1.89	0.36	0.71	0.15	0.86	0.12
Education of mother [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	1.05	0.17	1.09	0.23	0.99	0.13
GCSE or equivalent	0.92	0.1	**0.66	0.09	1.19	0.12
None	0.86	0.14	***0.50	0.09	1.22	0.19
Education of partner [baseline=degree]						
A-level or equivalent	1	0.17	0.86	0.17	1.28	0.19
GCSE or equivalent	1	0.11	0.98	0.13	*1.31	0.13
None	0.8	0.11	0.79	0.13	1.11	0.15
Working status of mother [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	1.17	0.12	0.98	0.13	*0.82	0.07
Working status of partner [baseline=employed]						
Unemployed or inactive	0.85	0.12	0.97	0.17	*1.18	0.15
Age of youngest child [baseline=3-4 years]						
0-2 years	0.77	0.13	0.83	0.18	***0.36	0.05
5-11 years	1.01	0.16	**0.56	0.12	0.92	0.14
12-15 years	***0.46	0.08	***0.27	0.06	***0.48	0.08
Number of children in household [baseline=1]						
2	0.79	0.09	0.98	0.12	***2.84	0.24

Table 23 Logistic regression models for child involvement and positive relationship factors - mothers

3 or more	0.8	0.11	0.74	0.12	***4.53	0.59
Marital status [baseline=not married]						
Married	1.26	0.16	**1.47	0.22	0.90	0.10