**FATHER’S ROLE IN A FAMILY FUNCTIONING**



Father plays an important role in the life of every child. Presence and participation in upbringing affects the emotional development of a toddler from the moment of his or her birth. Although, the bond between the father and children differs from that of the mother, it is an important element of a proper social and psychological development. For a child, the existance of the father is very important. Over the years, it has become a role model. Good contact with the father during early childhood and adolescence becomes a solid foundation of the child's independence and emotional stability. In the first three years of a toddler's life, the father's most important task is to "be" or actively participate in the family life. Children are very good observers. If only the mother of the child deals with them and the role of the father comes down to a goodnight kiss, it can lead to a small contact between the child and the father in the period of adolescence.

Often, men are removed from the background and do not participate in the child's life. They run into the whirl of work. Therefore, there are some situations in which the child does not recognize his or her father. The man thinks he should be a family support and avoid too much emotional involvement. The establishment by a father and child of a strong emotional bond pays off in the future.

For both boys and girls, the father's role should not come down to the authority and guide to follow, but also to a teacher and friend. It has been proved that a good contact with the father during early childhood and adolescence becomes a solid foundation of the child's independence and emotional stability.

From birth to around the third year of life, the "more important" parent is mother. In the second year of life, father begins to play an important role too.

A child who has a sense of security is more eager to take his first steps. He feels that his father's strong arms will protect him/her from a painful fall. The change of the orientation takes place between 3 and 4. Time spent with the child is very important - whether at a shared party or even a walk. Every child observes his father's behaviour carefully and perceives his every word as the right one to apply. Father becomes the authority and the way in which the child will perceive him. It results in a similar relationship in an adult life. In case of girls, they allow themselves for more forgiveness and care. There is even the term of "daddy's daughter". Men often have a problem with determining their role in the life of their son or daughter. They think that they should be more strict for a boy to grow him into a strong man. In case of girls, they allow themselves for more understanding and care. That is why the concept of "daddy's daughter" also functions in a socjety. It is usually the fathers who care for their daughters, who want to protect them from "bad" people. However, keep in mind that going from one extreme to another one is not a good solution. The boy's father should be more restrained and firm, but only in order to show the child the difference between good and evil.

However, daughters should sensitize to evil, to the dangers that may happen to them. What kind of contact some fathers make with their children during the first three years of their life is of great importance in the future. Especially during puberty. Boys who have a good emotional contact with their dads are more likely to experience problems related to their sexuality. In turn, girls take a distance from contacts with boys. They do not experience fears associated with them, but on the other hand they do not hysterically strive to get their attention.

**Here is an example illustrating a dysfunctional family after losing a mother:**

The woman suddenly felt bad. Everything seemed to be just a flu. The disease progressed so quickly that the woman died shortly after reporting to the hospital. The doctors carried out a section - it turned out that the wife was killed by the sepsis. A 54-year-old father remained with two children (an 11-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son). She was good, generous and funny. They did everything together. When he lost her, he felt like he did not have a part of himself. For the man it was a huge tragedy. Being a single parent who raises his children himself, deals with home and work was a huge challenge for him. He was crying, he was beset by negative emotions that led him to two heart attacks. Emotional problems also affected the children negatively. They became suspicious, introverted, and had to answer the question "why their mother left them, where she is, other colleagues have both parents ..." They needed psychological support. The meetings lasted for three years. The older daughter started leaving the house, meeting people from inappropriate company. She used to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes. She ran away from home many times. A family curator appeared. He had to look inside into the family’s situation. All through the internal impotence, lack of acceptance of the incident. The grandmother of the children played a huge role in the whole situation. She tried to help them, took care of, abolished every situation with humility. She was a support at all times. Today, although there is a regret for what has happened, their life has normalized. Time heals wounds and the day is brighter. "I've shed tears of loneliness, I'm not ashamed to admit it, the grief is hard, the grief falls on you when you do not expect it, but it's okay, normal and healthy ... Life goes on ... I finally got my hands on my wife's death. It does not mean that I forgot about her, once a month we go with my daughter and son on her grave, we try to live. Now, I'm fully focused on being a good dad, I do not want to disappoint my children anymore. "

