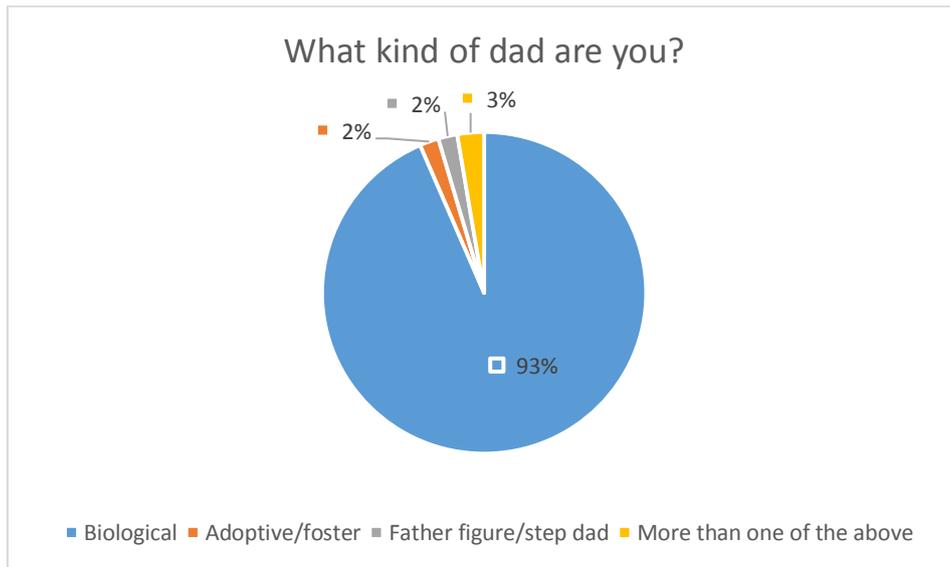


Father's Day Survey 2017 Analysis

By Reka Szaboki

1. What kind of dad are you?

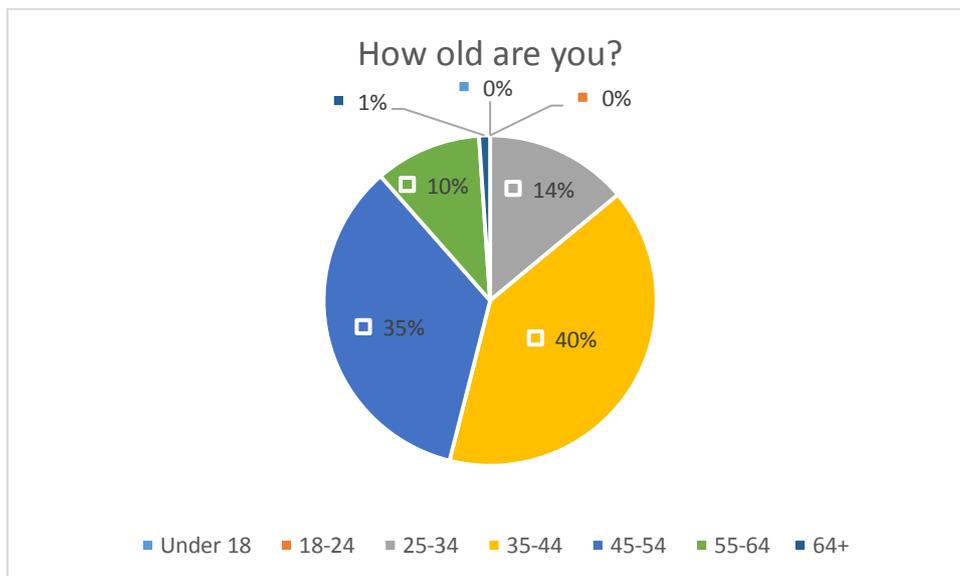
The vast majority - 93% - of fathers who took part in the survey were biological fathers, while 2% were adoptive, 3% were stepfathers and 2% belonged to more than one of the previous categories.

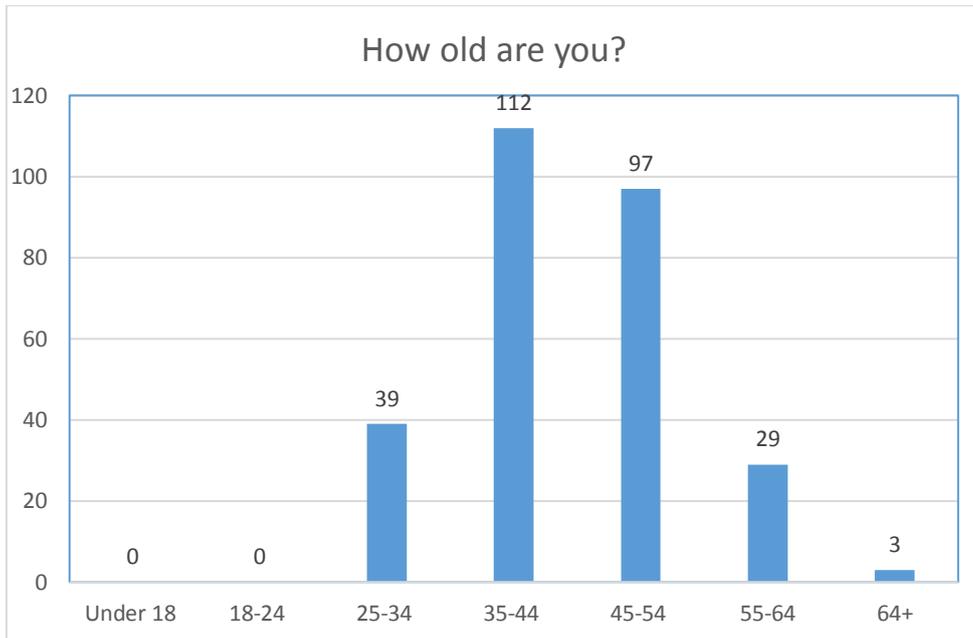


N = 263

2. How old are you?

None of the surveyed dads were under 24 years old, therefore the findings cannot be generalised onto that age group – similar with over 64's (granddads perhaps?). 14% were aged 25-34, 40% were aged 35-44, 35% were aged 45-54 and 10% were 55-64 years old. Very similar in distribution to last year's survey.

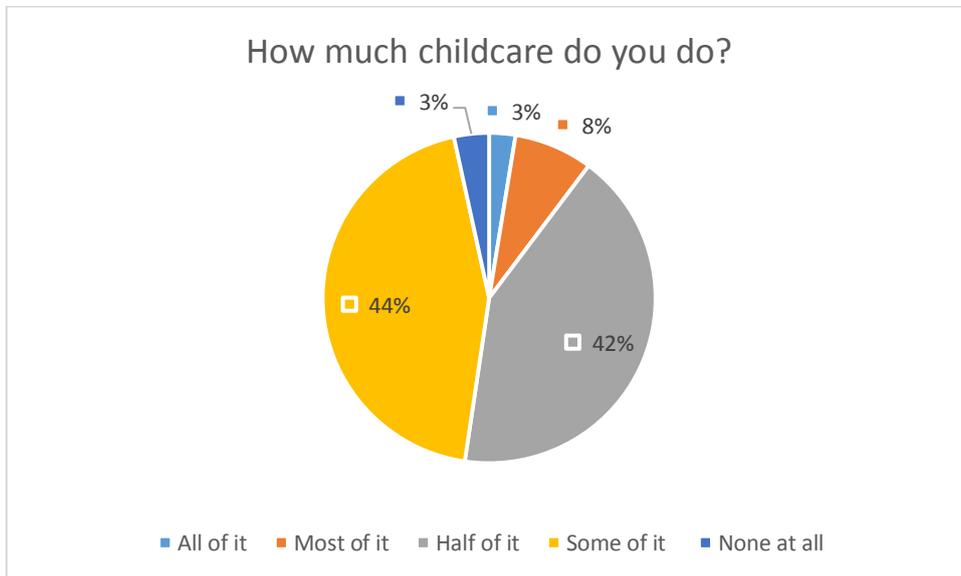




N = 281

3. How much childcare do you do?

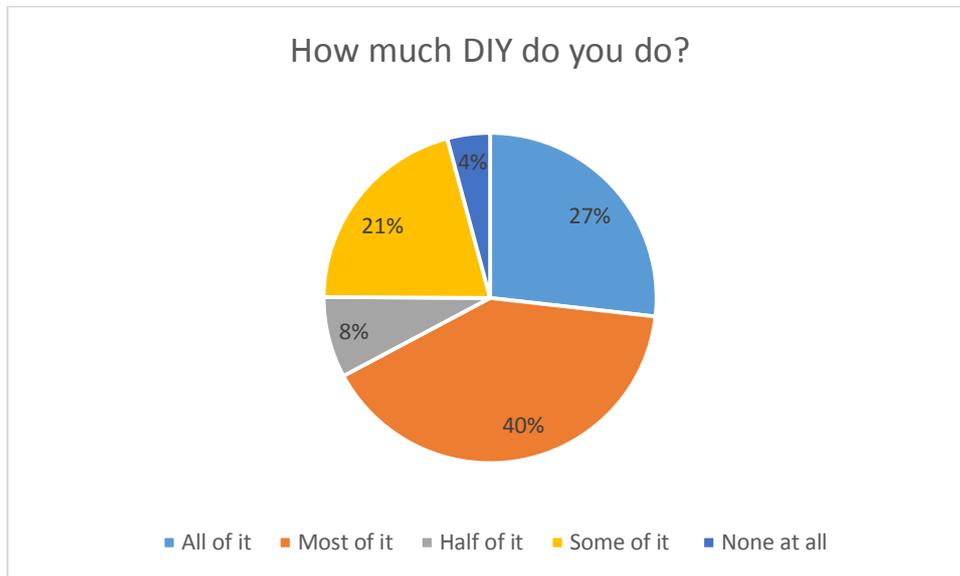
10% of dads have kids which are too old, therefore need no childcare. A little over half of the fathers that do have younger children do half or more of the childcare. 44% say that they do some and 3% do none at all.



N = 262

4. How much DIY do you do?

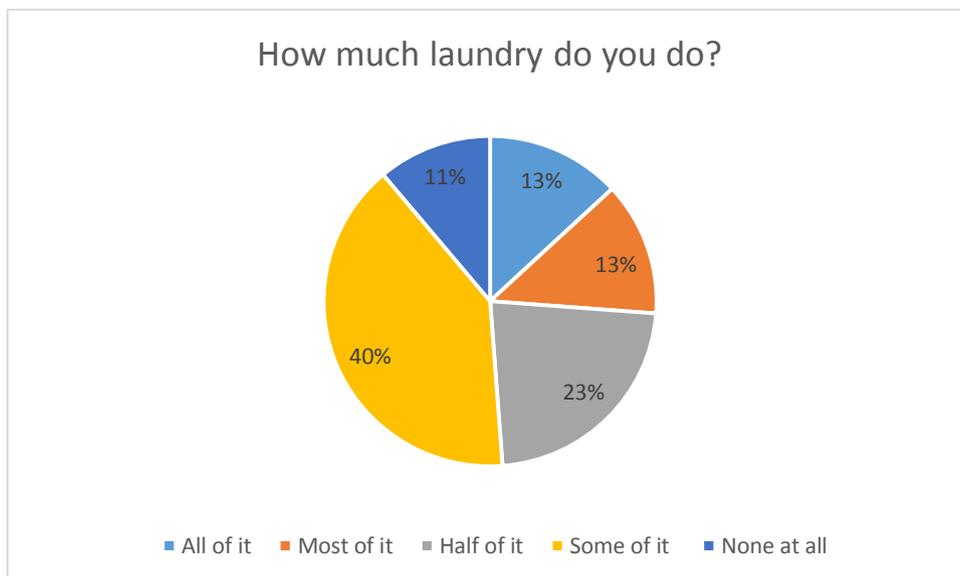
The majority of the dads do all or most of the DIY around the house, 4% do none at all, 8% do half of it and 21% do some of it. This appears to be very stereotypical indeed!



N = 266

5. How much laundry do you do?

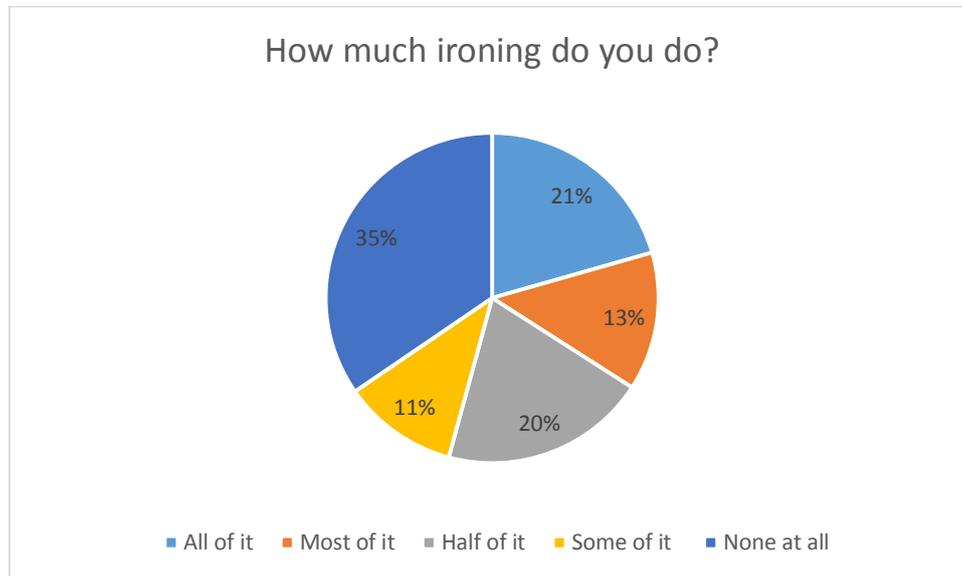
13% of dads do all of the laundry and 13% do most! About a quarter (23%) of them do half of the laundry and 40% do some - that leaves 11% of dads doing no laundry at all. 1 person skipped the question.



N = 253

6. How much ironing do you do?

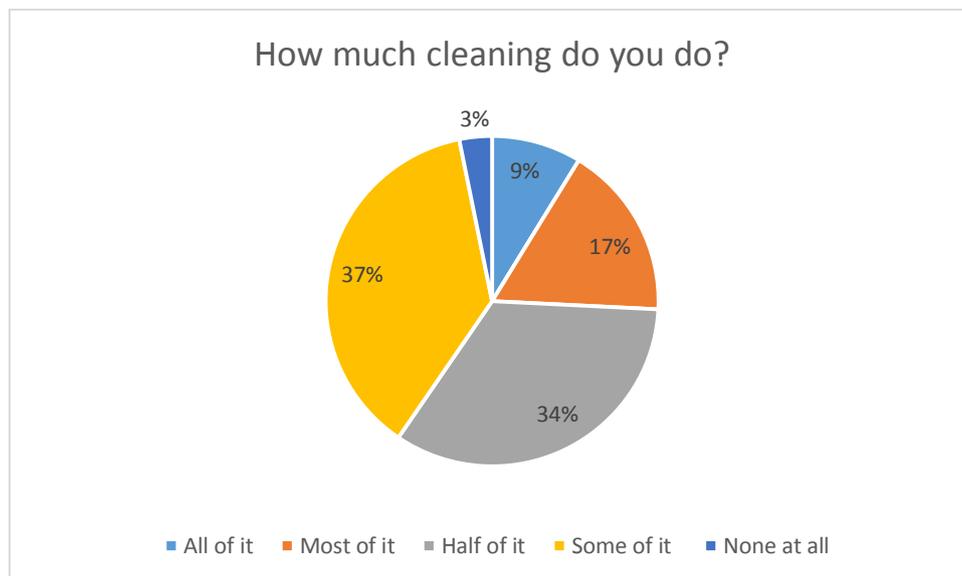
The majority of dads told us that they do half or more of the ironing, with 21% of them doing all! 11% do some while 35% do none at all.



N = 250

7. How much cleaning do you do?

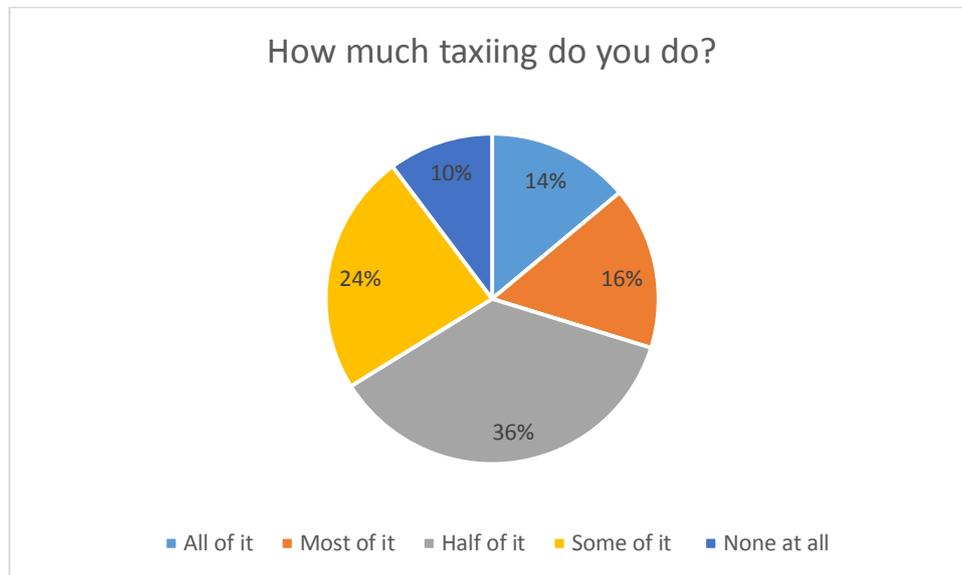
34% of dads said that they do half of the cleaning with 37% doing slightly less, but 17% of the fathers surveyed did most of the cleaning and 9% did all. Only 3% of dads did no cleaning around the house. This shows that the dads are very cleanly!



N = 252

8. How much taxiing/taking kids to activities do you do?

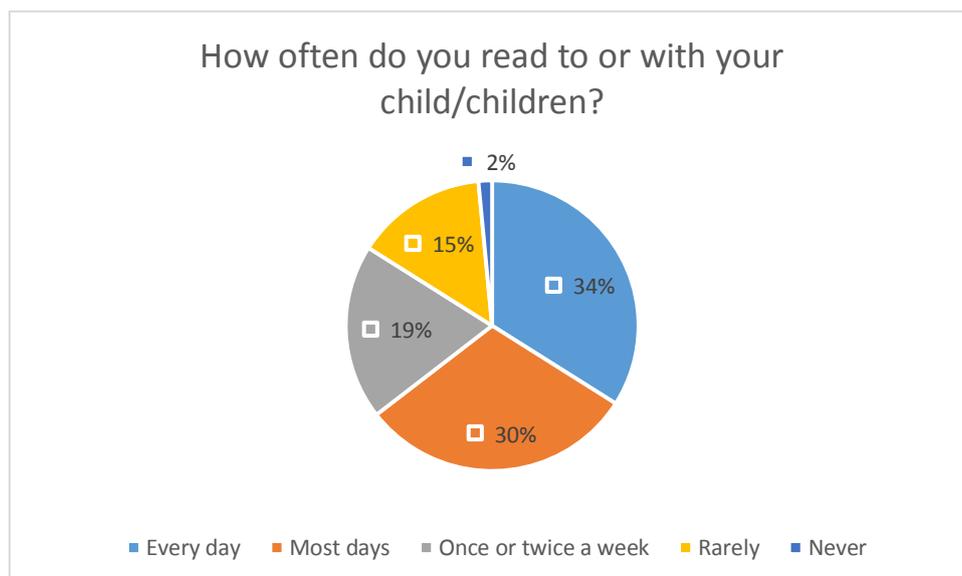
Dads make up a popular taxi service with 14% doing all of the driving, 16% doing most of it and 36% doing half. 10% do none at all and 24% do some. 2 people skipped the question.



N = 247

9. How often do you read to or with your child/children?

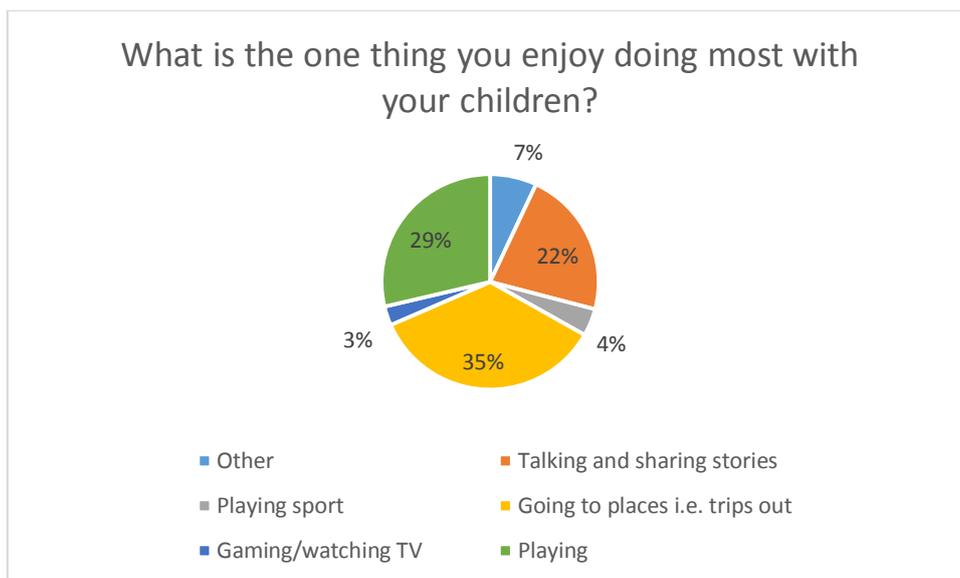
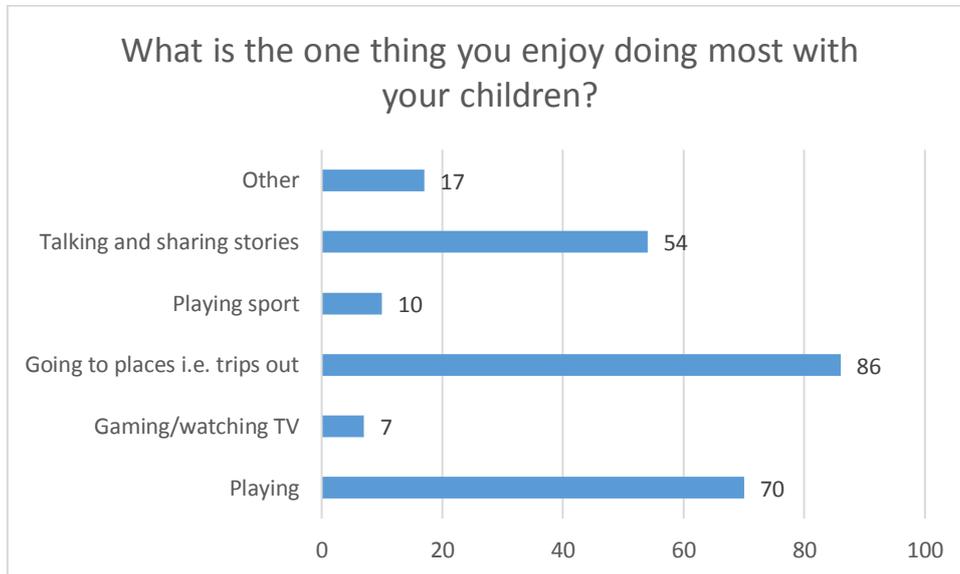
18% of dads say their children are too old. Most of those (64%) who do have young children take the time to read to their kids "most days", including 34% doing so every day! Only 2% of dads surveyed do no reading, which is because they are prohibited from seeing the children.



N = 246

10. What is the one thing you enjoy doing most with your children?

Dads love taking trips, this being the most popular way to spend time with their children, with about a quarter of dads saying this was the one thing they enjoyed doing most with the kids. Playing together is the second most popular and they also loved talking and sharing stories. Watching TV and playing sport were less popular. Very similar to last year!



N = 245

11. If you answered 'Other' please share the one thing you most enjoy doing with your child/children?

A few examples:

'Just spending time together and making memories - her looking back thinking her childhood was great is my aim.'

'Making things, gardening.'

'We love modern tabletop games, whether cooperative such as Forbidden Island, or roleplaying such as Traveller, Fate and OneDice.'

Too young - quite a few responses were about the children being too young, so just holding /bathing them and being together:

'Son is 3 months old. Most time spent together is at the nappy changing station.'

'Bathing and putting to sleep (9 months old!)

Socialising - some dads said that they just enjoy socialising with their children, chatting and having dinner together:

'Talking with them and making them smile.'

'Going for walks and chatting about life.'

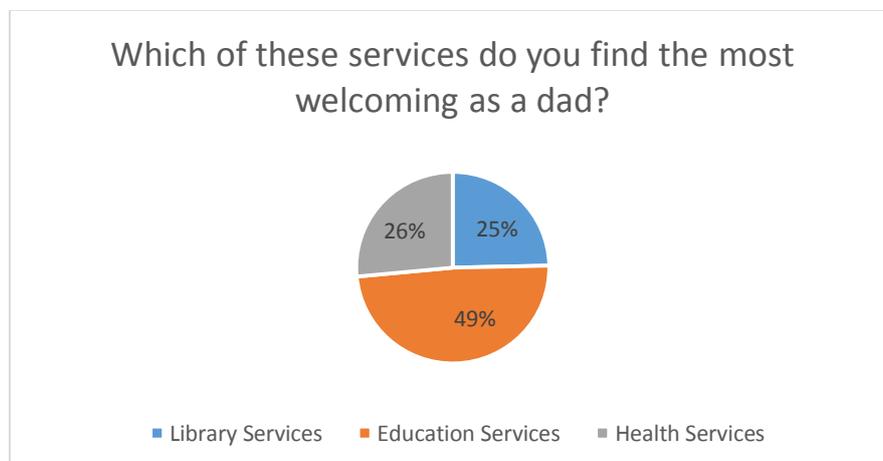
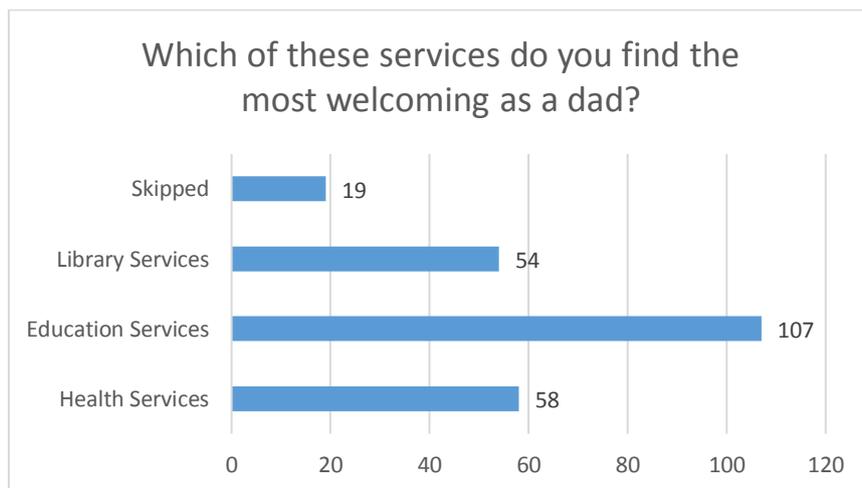
Being active -

'Going for walks with the dog and exploring'

'Rock climbing (with eldest), going on any adventures (with both)'

12. Which of these services do you find the most welcoming as a dad?

Education services were found to be the most welcoming of all, and health and library services were very close together with about 20% of people finding them the most welcoming, separately. 19 people skipped the question entirely.



N = 245

The pie chart shows the preference for services of the fathers who did not skip the question. 8% skipped the question (19 dads), but out of those who completed it, almost half found education services to be the most welcoming. The other half was split between library and health services.

13. What would make these services more dad-friendly?

Some dads thought services were already father friendly enough:

'In my experience all the public services are father-friendly.'

'I think I've seen a lot of change - more friendly now than 10 years ago.'

Others expressed their concern about how mothers are always seen as more important:

'Gender neutral pictures. Mums dominate pictures on literature. Chipping away at the assumption that it is always the mum who is the primary carer.'

'Catering for Dads and not just mums. Dads are always an afterthought.'

'Stop making absolutely everything about "Mum". Dad also "knows best" too!!'

Some practical suggestions:

'Information leaflets, advice and guidance are usually aimed at mums; it would be good if they were aimed at dads. It would be good to see more images and posters with dads in them - both as part of a family or a dad doing things with their children.'

'Encourage male figures to interact more through peer example and support. Bring those in who already engage and let them "mentor" or provide examples of good practice and how it can work for men.'

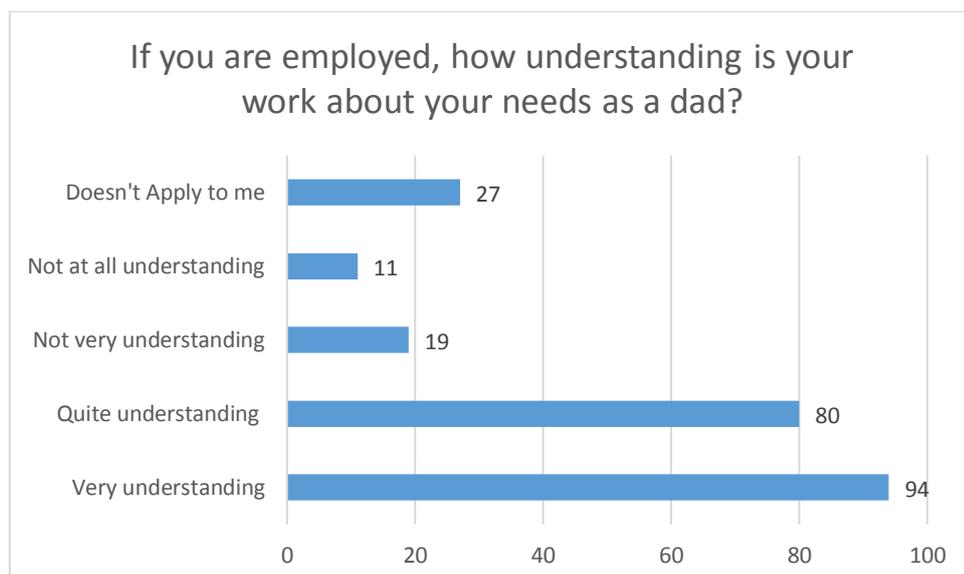
'Baby changing facilities in men's toilets'

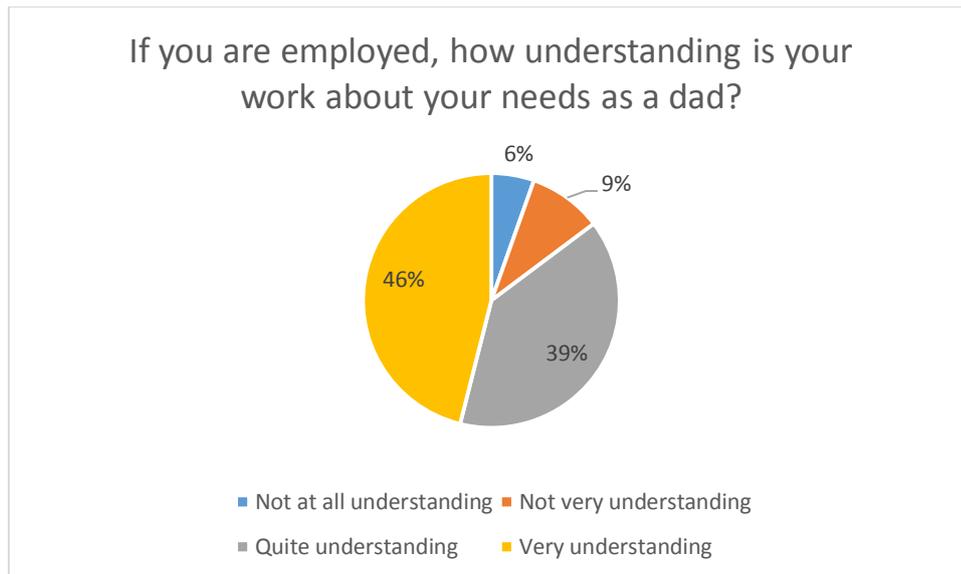
'More male workers!'

'Accommodating working hours/time'

14. If you are employed, how understanding is your work about your needs as a dad?

The majority of surveyed dads found that their workplace was understanding about their needs as fathers but about 13% of dads said that their workplace is not very/not at all understanding. This agrees with the comments below which show that some adjustments could be made to some workplaces but overall the situation is not terrible. Almost identical to last year.





12% of fathers (27 dads) said that this did not apply to them, however, out of those who did, almost half found their employers very understanding, and 39% found them quite understanding.

15. How could your employer be more dad-friendly?

Some are happy already:

'They have changed my hours to allow me to pick up and drop off my children one day a week at school. That is brilliant and has made a huge difference.'

'They couldn't... Bosch allow me as much time as I need for anything important'

Others want more flexible working hours to be able to pick up/drop off children:

'Flexible hours for nursery drop off.'

Be more accommodating to little duties a dad faces, flexible working hours:

'Be more accommodating of the smaller chunks of time that need to be created, for example being able to nip away for an hour to watch sports day or take child to GP rather than having to book a half days holiday. Similarly being tolerant of short notice need such as doctors' appointments or just being able to put in a bit of time with the child when it seems necessary without advance formal booking. e.g. It would nice to occasionally leave early to pick child up from childminder early on days when life's been busy and I feel need to keep connected.'

'There isn't much focus on dads needing time off for appointments or school plays during the day. Much more focus on mums'

Paternity leave:

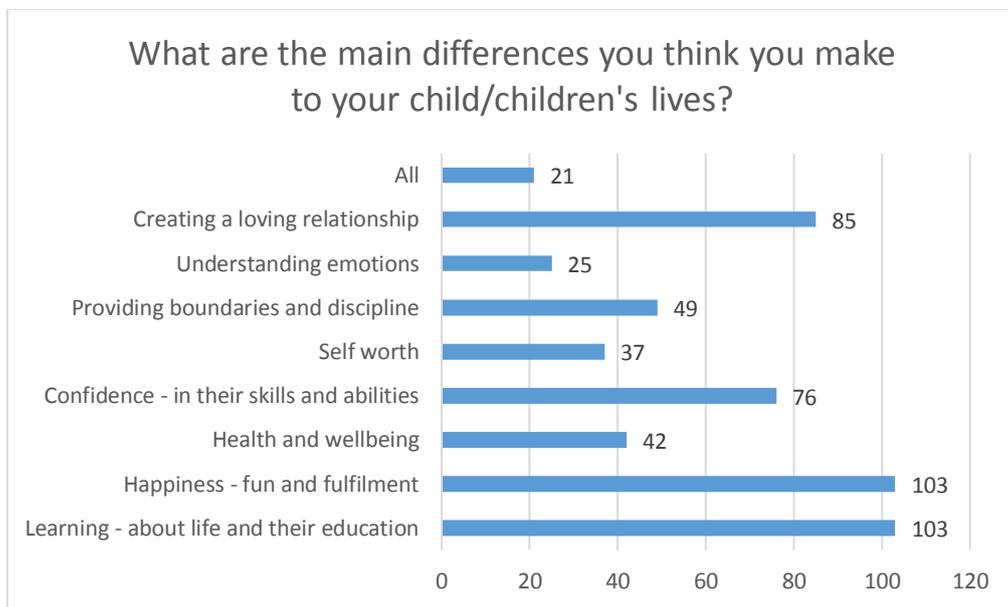
'Additional separate paternity leave'

'Extended paternal leave and the option of shared parental leave at the same rate of pay as maternity care.'

*'I had to go to a zero-hour contract just because I needed a day off to look after my daughter and I work in a residential childcare setting! I wasn't entitled to paternity pay and there has been no flexibility regarding shifts unless I take zero hours!
Employers need to support us more with childcare. Offer us an option to have flexible childcare hours. There is still a culture in the UK that when a child is born the mother will take maternity leave and the father will get back to work ASAP.'*

16. What are the main differences you think you make to your child/children's lives? Please list up to 3 or if you have others please share them with us.

Some dads commented that if they could, they would select all the options, while others just went ahead and selected them all anyway. Happiness, learning, confidence and creating a loving relationship appear to be the most important factors here. Compared to last year's survey, happiness and learning were more popular than a loving relationship – perhaps because happiness implies love.



N = 218

Happiness/Learning – 47% of dads
 Creating a loving relationship – 39% of dads
 Confidence – 35% of dads

Other comments by dads which were not in the list:

'Concern and care for other people and the planet'

'Role model of emotional, loving, tactile man'

'I value and strive to be a role model in all of the above. Self worth and flourishing as a person to achieve their potential in all aspects of life is key.'

'Providing a safe environment for them to grow and develop'

'Giving them roots and wings'

17. What prevents you from being the dad you want to be, if anything? For example – work, money, family, stress etc.

Most dads wrote work, money and stress – working too much because you have no money which comes with a certain amount of stress, it's a vicious circle. Also, they commented on there not being enough time in the day:

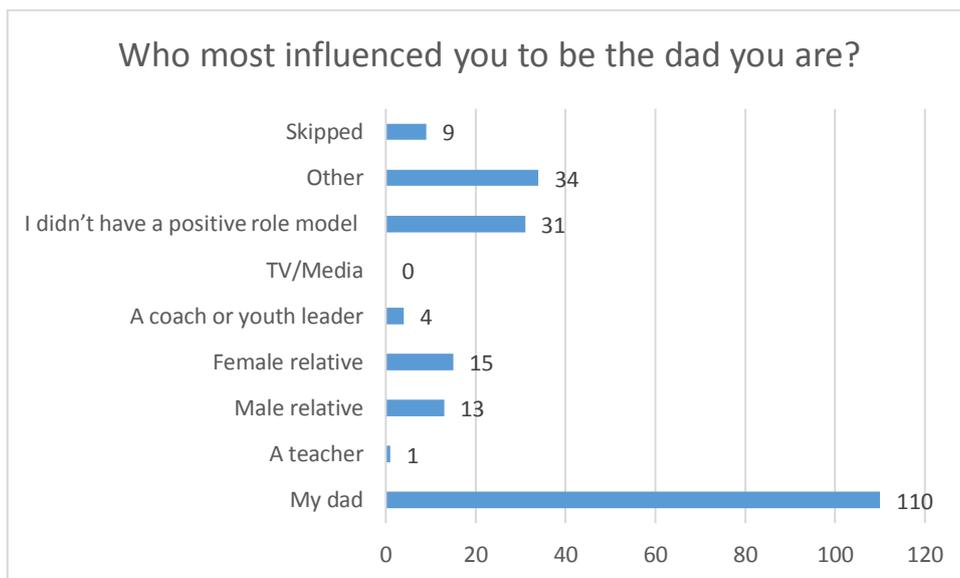
'When you both work, the limited hours that schools and nurseries are open make it really hard to juggle everything.'

'Stress, there never seems to be enough time to do the things I want to do with my children or that they want to do with me because life is a bit of a treadmill, especially during the school term. We try and make the most of the holidays though but by then there is usually a list of jobs to done that we have been putting off because we didn't have time for them during term time.'

'Too many commitments at work's taking up my free time.'

18. Who most influenced you to be the dad you are?

9 dads skipped the question. An overwhelming majority had their fathers as their role models, while some felt that their childhood was troublesome and therefore did not write down any role models.



N = 215

51% said their dad was their role model, 14% did not have a positive role model. The rest is a mixture of female/male relatives and sport coaches and teachers.

19. Please tell us more about the people who most influenced your parenting!

'Coming from a broken home as a child an uncle took me under his wing so to speak and gave a positive role model.'

'My Dad was simply My Dad. Reliable, friendly, caring. Someone who allowed me to be me, and supported me in the choices I made, whilst offering advice, but not judgement along the way.'

'My mother influenced me the most in my parenting and being the best person then dad I can be. Values of love respect and sharing with others.'

'The strong, loving, stable relationship my parents have has been the single biggest influence.'

'My dad & mum were pretty good. Although pretty flawed too. So, they influenced me in the sense that I wanted to do things better. They were good people. Just struggling like all of us do and did they best they could.'

'My dad was of the school of hard parenting generation that showed very little emotion. I vowed to be a different style of dad.'

20. What do you LOVE about being a dad?

'That I have such wonderful children.'

'I have a very strong bond with my children, and my two year old son makes me feel like the most special person in the world. I love everything about them both.'

'Getting hugs from my boys at night before they go to bed'

'Hearing my daughter laugh, cuddles.'

'Everything. The birth of my daughter was the single greatest moment of my life and she continues to make every day a joy'

'Being a dad makes me feel incredibly lucky. I love playing with my kids, teaching them things and having a joke and laugh with them. They make life much more fun.'

'The time with my children seeing them turn into young adults and finding they are now my friends...'

'It's fun! My little man loves me very much, best feeling ever.'

'Holding hands, bedtime stories, smiling at each other, relearning things I've forgotten from my children, realising what's important in my life is spending time with those I love.'

'For my older kids I love the feeling of looking at them and watching them grow up knowing that I've helped create and develop them into the type of person they are now. With my younger one I love simply playing and being there in his company. I love his hugs and the way he recognises me when I call.'

'My kids laughing and having a fun together. Silly jokes and watching them develop their own little personality'

21. Is there anything else you want to tell us about being a dad in Scotland in 2017?

Some dads really enjoy being a dad in Scotland, while others expressed some concern about how old fashioned people are when thinking about families – fathers should be equal to mums.

'It's bloody hard work'

'It rocks. We're in a good place in many respects.'

'I think there's still some gender stereotyping. I hate it when people say are you babysitting, or imply I'm lumped with the kid. Sorry but I'm solo parenting or just being a dad and it can be tough but very rewarding'

'It's hard for Dads to find support. And people tend not to share the hard stuff - it isn't easy, there are times you are unhappy, and you make mistakes - but our culture is such we don't really acknowledge that.'

'With the Year of the Dad & support from FNS etc. I am really pleased to watch the importance of dads/male figures being heralded & understood better.'

'Thanks to groups like yours a hard job is getting a bit easier. I'm especially glad that Dad's doing their bit and being more active helps women and we are on their side! Thank you.'