

Are You Ready to be a Dad?

Are you ready to commit for life to the mother of your children? Whether you are married or not, when you have child with someone, you're connected for life.

Are you ready to spend time with your child? Fathers make a huge difference in the lives of their children. Kids raised without their dads are more likely to experience poverty, use drugs, drop out of school and end up in prison.

Do you know how to be a "good father"? The kind of relationship you had with your own father will affect the kind of father you are to your children. Make sure you're ready to nurture, guide and provide for your children. They'll need to know that you love them unconditionally just the way they are.

Are you ready to put your own wants aside? Once you have children, all of your decisions will have to be guided by what's in their best interest. Good dads put their kids first.

Becoming a father is easy. Being a father is a lot more complicated.

Not only are fathers financially responsible for their children, they're emotionally responsible for their children. The relationship you have with your children will have a lasting, lifelong impact.

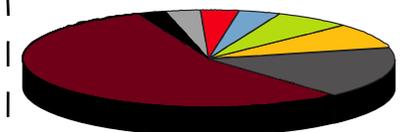
Here are some questions to ask yourself before taking this life-changing step.

To learn more about how to become the best father you can be, visit fatherhood.ohio.gov.

Are you prepared to be a role model? Kids watch everything you do. Good fathers don't just tell their children how to live; they show them through their actions every day.

Can you financially support a child? Raising a child from birth to age 18 in a single-parent home is estimated to cost \$164,160. If you include the price of attending a public college for four years, the cost increases to \$237,724.

\$16,948: Cost of Baby's First Year in Ohio



Sources:

U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2013 Annual Report "Expenditures on Children by Families." cnppl.usda.gov/sites/default/files/expenditures_on_children_by_families/crc2013.pdf

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BabyCenter LLC. First-Year Baby Cost Calculator. babycenter.com/baby-cost-calculator



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