

"I'm delighted to see so many inspiring, practical, unexpected ideas for dads in one place." —from the foreword by JOSH McDOWELL

What Fathers Can Do  
to Make a Lifelong Difference

# 52 THINGS KIDS NEED FROM A DAD



# HOW IMPORTANT IS A DAD?

We've all seen how it plays out on TV: Dad is the clueless buffoon whose sole purpose is to serve as a pathetic punch line. But in contrast, Americans believe fathers are extremely important. Incredibly, 72% of the US population believes *fatherlessness* is the most significant family/social issue facing America\*.

Men today are confused. They're ridiculed in the media and told they're unnecessary—or worse. Government programs even offer incentives for when

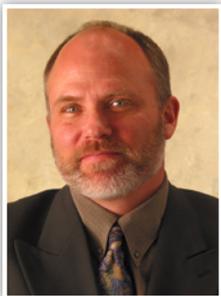
dad is *not* in the home. Author Jay Payleitner, a dad of five and a 10-time foster parent, wants to encourage and inspire fathers today. "I don't want to bash them, or put them on guilt trips," says Jay. "I want to remind dads, 'You matter.'"

The new book, *52 Things Kids Need From a Dad* underscores the life-enhancing rewards of fatherhood. These 52 things aren't "rules." They are invitations sent on behalf of your children. Some are easy. Some are fun. Some may be a challenge. The goal is to help fathers find joy in everyday life, love their children, set them up for success, and help them dream big dreams.

- 85% of youths in prison grew up without a dad
- 75% of adolescent patients in chemical-abuse centers come from fatherless homes
- Kids without fathers are:
  - twice as likely to drop out of school
  - 3 times as likely to commit suicide
  - 9 times as likely to be homeless or a runaway

## Every Kid Needs Their Dad To...

- Stop and catch fireflies
- Carry wallet (or iPod) photos
- Buy a unicycle
- Catch them in a big, fat lie
- Wake them up for a lunar eclipse
- Know the world's greatest knock-knock joke
- Get right with his own dad
- Ignore the stickball dents on the garage door
- Kiss his wife in the kitchen
- And 43 other invitations for dads



**Jay Payleitner** is a freelance producer/writer/blogger for The National Center for Fathering and author of *The One Year Life Verse Devotional* and the acclaimed modern parable *Once Upon a Tandem*. Hundreds of radio stations across the country broadcast Jay's work every day. Credits include *Josh McDowell Radio*, *WordPower*, *Jesus Freaks Radio*, and *Today's Father with Carey Casey*. Jay and his high school sweetheart, Rita, have four sons, one daughter and one daughter-in-law, and live in the Chicago area. Read Jay's weekly dad blog at [fathers52.com](http://fathers52.com).

\*Source: National Center for Fathering

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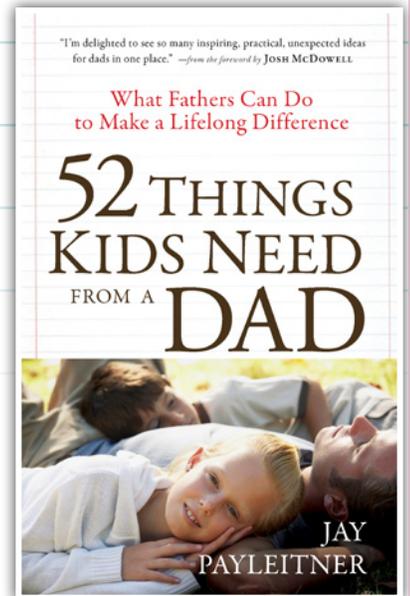
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# INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- ★ Jay, let's talk about fathers in 2010. What's going on with dads today?
- ★ So, point 1: Dads are important. #2, they are confused. What's point #3?
- ★ Is *52 Things Kids Need from a Dad* a book of rules?
- ★ Give us some examples. What are some of the "52 Things" kids need from their dad?
- ★ Some of the "52 things" are more ambiguous. For example, "Every kid needs their dad to count the train cars." Explain the lesson behind that one.
- ★ Chapter 9 is "Every kid needs their dad to sometimes make an illegal u-turn on the expressway and drive 30 miles back to the restaurant where your son left his Dodgers cap." There must be a story there?
- ★ What about the chapter "Every kid needs their dad ... to quit golf." Do you mean that?
- ★ What would you say right now to a dad who is struggling? Maybe he has no idea what to do with his kids, how to show them love, how to interact with them. What's your advice?
- ★ Of the "52 things," some are unexpected, serious, fun, practical, even tender-hearted. Each chapter brings a new truth. How did they come about?
- ★ There's a spiritual side to your message as well. Please, tell us why this is important.
- ★ Jay, you're affiliated with the National Center for Fathering. What is your role there?
- ★ Any last thoughts for dads? Or insight for any moms listening?



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