

National Organization of Mothers Of Twins Clubs, Inc.	SUBJECT: RESEARCHER: DATE:	Fathers Only National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. May 2007 – November 2007
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PURPOSE: The purpose of this survey was to gather information on how fathers contribute to the parenting of their multiples.

METHOD: A survey consisting of 25 questions was printed in the May/June 2007 **NOMOTC's Notebook** and distributed in a National Mailing. An online option was also offered for this survey. The survey was to be completed by fathers of multiple birth children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Three hundred forty seven surveys consisting of 25 questions were tabulated with 92.2% (320) of multiple type for twins, 5.5% (19) for triplets, 1.4% (5) for quadruplets, and 0.9% (3) for other with 2 respondents specifying 2 sets of twins and 1 respondent indicating triplets with one passing away.
2. Of the 342 fathers who answered the age question (5 respondents skipped this question), 72.5% (248) indicated that their multiples were not school age or older, while 27.5% (94) confirmed that they were.
3. The majority of respondents, 86.9% (248), were not stay-at-home fathers. Thirteen point one percent (42) confirmed that they did stay home with their multiples ranging from 2 weeks to the multiples' entire life. Of those, 9.5% (4) split the week with their wives who also worked outside the home, and 7.1% (3) of fathers worked out of the home.
4. Two hundred sixty five respondents completed this survey online with the remainder completing hard copies.

RESULTS

1. Over half of the respondents, 58.7% (203), did not have children in addition to their multiples. Forty one point three percent (143) had other children ranging in number from 1 to 5. One respondent skipped this question. When asked if they helped more with their multiples than with their singleton (s), 55.4% (77) answered yes, 5.0% (7) answered no, and 39.6% (55) answered the same. Two hundred eight respondents skipped this question.
2. The frequency which fathers fed their multiples was reported as 55.3% (178) always, 39.4% (127) sometimes, 2.5% (8) only when the mother of the multiples was away, 2.5% (rarely), and 0.3% (1) never. Twenty five respondents skipped this question.
3. When asked how often they got up at night to help with their multiples, 46.9% (150) of fathers always did, 42.2% (135) sometimes did, 8.7% (28) rarely did, 1.9% (6) never did, and 0.3% (1) did only when the mother was away. Twenty seven respondents skipped this question.
4. Diaper changing frequency ranged from 63.1% (205) always, 32.9% (107) sometimes, 2.2% (7) only when the mother was away, 1.5% (5) rarely, to 0.3% (1) never. Twenty two respondents skipped this question. Assistance with toilet training frequency ranged from 43.1% (119) sometimes, 36.6% (101) always, 7.2% (20) rarely, 6.9% (19) only when mother was away, to 6.2% (17) never. Seventy one respondents skipped this question.
5. Fathers assisted with dressing their multiples 51.7% (168) sometimes, 40.0% (130) always, 4.3% (14) only when mother was away, 3.1% (10) rarely, and 0.9% (3) never. Twenty two respondents skipped this question. The frequency of assisting with bathing multiples was reported as 42.3% (138) daily, 29.8% (97) weekly, 14.1% (46) occasionally, 6.1% (20) rarely, 4.0% (13) never, and 3.7% (12) only when mother was away. Twenty one respondents skipped this question.
6. Sixty percent (195) of respondents helped with doctors appointments for their multiples, while 9.5% (31) did not. Thirty point five percent (99) reported sometimes helping with appointments and 22 skipped this question.
7. When asked if they helped with birthday and/or holiday shopping for multiples, over two thirds of fathers, 67.9% (216) confirmed that they did. Thirty two point one percent (102) indicated they did not and 29 skipped this question.
8. Parents of multiples clubs activities were participated in by the majority of fathers with 63.8% (208) confirming participation. Thirty point one percent (98) did not take part, and 6.1% (20) reported that no activities were offered. Twenty on skipped this question.
9. Areas of participation in parents of multiples club activities were reported as follows: 65.2% (127) summer picnics, 46.9% (97) Halloween parties, 38.2% (79) Easter egg hunts, 20.8% (43) play groups, and 11.6% (24) parades. Nineteen point eight percent (41) of fathers participated in other activities such as clothing & equipment sales,

hayrides, parents night out, pool parties, baseball games, parties, zoo trips, and meetings. Of note, respondents were asked to choose all applicable activities that applied which resulted in multiple answers on some surveys. One hundred forty respondents skipped this question.

10. Most fathers, 98.4% (313), took care of their multiples when their mother was out. A small percentage, 1.6% (5) called a babysitter and 29 skipped this question.
11. Two questions were included regarding assistance with day care responsibilities. When asked if they got their multiples ready for day care in the morning, 14.1% (45) confirmed that they did, 10.3% (33) did not, and 10.0% (32) sometimes did. Sixty five point five percent (209) of respondents reported they did not utilize day care. Twenty eight skipped this question. When asked if they took their multiples to day care when they went, 40.4% (42) took them one way and 17.3% (18) took them both ways. The largest percentage of fathers, 42.3% (44), did not transport their multiples either way. This question was skipped by 243 respondents, 209 of which had already indicated not utilizing day care.
12. The frequency with which fathers reported getting their multiples ready for school was 27.6 % (32) daily, 28.4% (33) sometimes, 13.8% (16) only when the mother was away, 10.3.% (12) rarely, and 19.8% (23) never. Over two thirds of respondents, 231, skipped this question. Of note, 248 respondents reported that their multiples were not school age or older at the time of this survey.
13. Thirty seven point three percent (44) of respondents reported that they never packed or helped pack their multiples' lunches for school, while 16.9% (20) did so daily, 24.6% (29) sometimes did, 13.6% (16) did only when the mother was away, and 7.6% (9) rarely helped with lunches. Two hundred twenty nine respondents skipped this question.
14. Transportation of multiples to school in the morning by fathers was reported as 8.5% (10) yes-most days, 30.5% (36) yes-sometimes/took turns, 42.4% (50) no, and 18.6% (22) no-they rode the bus. Two hundred twenty nine respondents skipped this question.
15. Most of the respondents, 60.9% (70), reported that they did not help in the classroom/party activities at school. Thirty point four percent (35) sometimes helped, 8.7% (10) confirmed helping, and 232 respondents skipped this question.
16. When asked if they helped with homework, the highest percentage of 38.6% (44) indicated that they did daily, when needed. Thirty two point five percent (37) helped sometimes, 7.9% (9) did only when the mother was away, 6.1% (7) rarely did, and 14.9% (17) did not help. Two hundred thirty three respondents skipped this question.
17. Over half of the fathers participated in parent teacher conferences always with 56.1% (64) indicating so. Twenty seven point two percent (31) sometimes participated, and 16.7% (19) did not. Over two thirds of respondents, 233, again did not answer this question.
18. Seventy three percent (92) of respondents dropped off their multiples at sport or other outside activities and stayed until they were done. One point six percent (2) reported dropping them off only, 4.8% (6) reported they did not take them, and 20.6% (26) indicated not applicable. Two hundred twenty one skipped this question.
19. Most respondents, 87.1% (196), confirmed that they or their wives were members of a club affiliated with the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. Five point three percent (12) were not, 4.4% (10) reported both were members, 3.2% (7) were unsure, and 122 skipped this question.
20. A comparison was made between stay-at-home fathers and those who weren't. The frequency of participation in assisting with the care of their multiples was compared below:

Multiples Activity	Stay-at-home Fathers		Work outside the home Fathers	
Help with feeding	Always	71.1%	Always	53.9%
Frequency of getting up at night	Always	63.2%	Always	44.9%
	Sometimes	28.9%	Sometimes	43.8%
Change diapers	Always	73.7%	Always	62.2%
	Sometimes	21.1%	Sometimes	34.1%
Dressing multiples	Always	50.0%	Always	39.3%
	Sometimes	42.1%	Sometimes	53.2%
Doctor appointments	Yes	78.9%	Yes	57.7%
POM activities	Yes	65.8%	Yes	64.4%
Care for multiples when mother out	Father	100.0%	Father	98.1%

CONCLUSION

The effort to research information on how fathers contribute to the parenting of their multiples yielded 347 surveys comprised of 25 questions each. Two hundred sixty five respondents completed this survey online with the remainder completing hard copies. Twins accounted for the highest percentage of multiple type at 92.2%, followed by triplets at 5.5%, and quadruplets at 1.4%. Two respondents reported having two sets of twins.

While 27.5% of fathers confirmed that their multiples were school age or older, the majority of them (72.5%) indicated that they were not. Most fathers (86.9%) were not stay-at-home fathers, while 13.1% reported that they had stayed home with their multiples for time periods ranging from 2 weeks to the multiples' entire life. A small portion of those, 9.5%, split the week with their wives who also worked outside the home, and 7.1% of fathers worked at home.

Fathers of multiple birth children ages birth to school age assisted with care giving activities such as feeding, diaper changing and dressing with a combined frequency of "always" more than 51% of the time and "sometimes" greater than 32% of the time. Despite most of the fathers working outside the home, 46.9% always got up at night to help with their multiples, and 42.2% sometimes did. Sixty percent of respondents helped with doctors appointments for their multiples. Over two thirds of fathers (67.9%) confirmed that they assisted with birthday and/or holiday shopping for their multiples. While most fathers (98.4%) took care of their multiples when their mother was out, a small percentage (1.6%) called a babysitter.

Parents of multiples clubs activities were participated in by the majority of fathers with 63.8% confirming participation. The highest areas of participation in parents of multiples club activities were reported as 65.2% summer picnics, 46.9% Halloween parties, and 38.2% Easter egg hunts. Areas of less participation included activities such as clothing & equipment sales, hayrides, parents night out, pool parties, baseball games, parties, zoo trips, and meetings.

Information regarding day care responsibilities was obtained via two survey questions. The majority of fathers, 65.5%, reported they did not utilize day care. Of those who did, 14.1% confirmed that they got their multiples ready for day care in the morning, 10.3% did not, and 10.0% sometimes did. When asked if they took their multiples to day care when they went, 40.4% took them one way and 17.3% took them both ways. The largest percentage of fathers, 42.3%, did not transport their multiples either way. There was a correlation between fathers not transporting their multiples and working outside the home, most likely indicating that there were schedule conflicts. Of note, a significant 243 respondents skipped this question.

Participation in day time activities with school age multiples by fathers was much lower, presumably due to interference with work schedules. The frequency with which fathers reported getting their multiples ready for school was 27.6 % daily, 28.4% sometimes, 13.8% only when the mother was away, 10.3.% rarely, and 19.8% never. The highest percentage of fathers, 37.3%, reported that they never packed or helped pack their multiples' lunches for school. While 8.5% of fathers transported multiples to school in the morning on most days, 42.4% reported not doing so. Most of the respondents, 60.9%, reported that they did not help in the classroom/party activities at school. When asked if they helped with homework, the highest percentage of fathers, 38.6%, indicated that they did daily, when needed. Over half of the fathers participated in parent teacher conferences always with 56.1% indicating so.

Seventy three percent of fathers dropped off their multiples at sport or other outside activities and stayed until they were done. One point six percent reported dropping them off only, 4.8% reported they did not take them, and 20.6% indicated not applicable. The high participation in sport or outside activities is most likely possible due to the fact that most of these activities occur in the afternoon and evenings, thereby enabling fathers to participate after work hours.

The frequency of participation in assisting with the care of their multiples by stay-at-home fathers and those working outside the home was compared. Survey questions focusing on specific areas of care including feeding, diaper changing, dressing, and getting up at night to help were compared. Stay-at-home fathers averaged a frequency of "always" helping 64.5% of the time, and fathers who worked outside the home averaged "always" helping 50.1% of the time. The resulting difference was 14.4% higher for stay-at-home fathers. Even so, most fathers of multiples, regardless of their work location, reported helping in some capacity with their children.

Respectfully submitted,
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