



Guide to fatherhood

Website helps dads navigate the journey of a lifetime

In sitcoms, cartoons and advertising, we're often portrayed as hapless boobs who are tolerated by our exasperated spouses and children for our comic relief value. We don't mind — we're glad to provide a laugh when we can.

We teach our kids how to throw a ball. We wait up late when they miss curfew. We help them buy their first car. Today we get our own day. We didn't ask for it, but it's nice to be appreciated. We're dads.

Fatherly.com is a website that is designed to help us on our lifelong journey of fatherhood. It features a collection of articles



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InSites

and videos covering a wide range of dad-related topics.

The navigation bar at the top of the site lists the areas covered: Parenting, Play, Health & Science, Gear, Love & Money and News. A secondary row of links breaks down the phases of childhood from Trying & Expecting through Tweens & Teens.

The home page features a gallery of "breaking" dad-related news. For instance, there are articles on the World Cup and Anthony Bourdain's death. These are side-by-side with articles on playground safety and a video demonstration of a craft project dads can do with their kids.

Scrolling down the page reveals some of the sections from the navigation bar as well as other topics not listed above. The Trending section covers movies, sports, screen-based entertainment, books and other activities that fathers might want to do with their kids or monitor for content.

Another section is titled Fatherly Guides. It offers guidance on adoption, car seats, bath time, allowances, homework and more.

There's a lighter side of the site that covers pop culture, games, toys, travel, playlists, birthday parties and other fun, but still important, topics.

There are also many articles covering more serious topics, such as challenges faced by gay or immigrant parents, dealing with troubled children, finding safe child care, maintaining a loving relationship with your spouse, divorce and more.

The tone of the site also pings between cheesy dad-joke type humor and useful information on raising healthy, well-adjusted kids. It's kind of like dads themselves who can veer from silly to serious with ease.

Fatherly is a nicely designed site that is easy and intuitive to navigate. I thought it would be just another Father's Day site that's trying to sell barbecue gear, ties and tools — and there is some of that — but it has a lot of interesting and useful information.

KEVIN O'NEILL is a staff artist for The Times-Tribune. Share your favorite websites and apps with him at koneill@timeshamrock.com.