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While the involvement of any parent - mother or father - is seen as a boon for a child's education, a small but growing body of controversial research has indicated that students blossom even more when a father jumps in.

Some of that influence is due to long-persisting gender stereotypes: Because American culture does not expect fathers to be actively engaged in their children's education, the act of a father stepping inside a school can bolster the importance of education in a child's mind. In a way, that clout is reminiscent of a generations-old expression still muttered by some frustrated mothers: "Just wait until your father gets home."

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Good to see the positive sides of parenting covered.

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