

Dear Friends,

Abraham Lincoln once said, “All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.” Social science research explores and confirms Lincoln’s sentiments.

FEATURED ON MARRIPEDIA

Effects of Religious Practice on Child-Parent Relationships

Parents who attend religious services are more likely to enjoy a better relationship with their children. Moreover, the greater a child’s religious involvement, the more likely both the child and parent (both mother and father) will agree about the quality of their relationship, the more similar their values will be, and the greater their emotional closeness will be. [Continue this entry on Marripedia...](#)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Maternal Support and Children’s Brain Growth

Maternal support in early childhood contributes to the growth of brain structures associated with learning, memory and stress response, [according](#) to Joan Luby and colleagues of Washington University in St. Louis. Go to Marripedia.org to learn how [divorce undoes some of the benefits of early maternal attachment](#).



The Importance of Family Meals

Adolescents who frequently partake in family meals are less likely to smoke, drink, use drugs, get into fights, or feel depressed, and are more likely to do well in school and delay sexual activity. Read John Lingan’s excellent [overview](#).



The Toll of Parental Incarceration

A [new analysis](#) from the Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that parental incarceration creates an unstable environment for children, and has long term consequences for the child’s development and well-being. Check out [“Effects of Criminal Parents on Children”](#) on Marripedia for a synthesis of the research on parental incarceration.

Sincerely,

Pat Fagan, Ph.D.

Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute (MARRI)