



sound advice

GETTING DAD INVOLVED

Being a dad is a huge job.

Dads have a direct impact on the wellbeing of their children. Studies have shown that children with caring, involved fathers often have better educational outcomes, better verbal skills, higher intellectual functioning, are more confident and emotionally secure and may also have better social connections with their peers.

Being a dad is a busy job, and sometimes it can be difficult to find the time to connect with your children. A few suggestions include:

Read with your child before bed – a great way to settle down and encourage the love of reading.

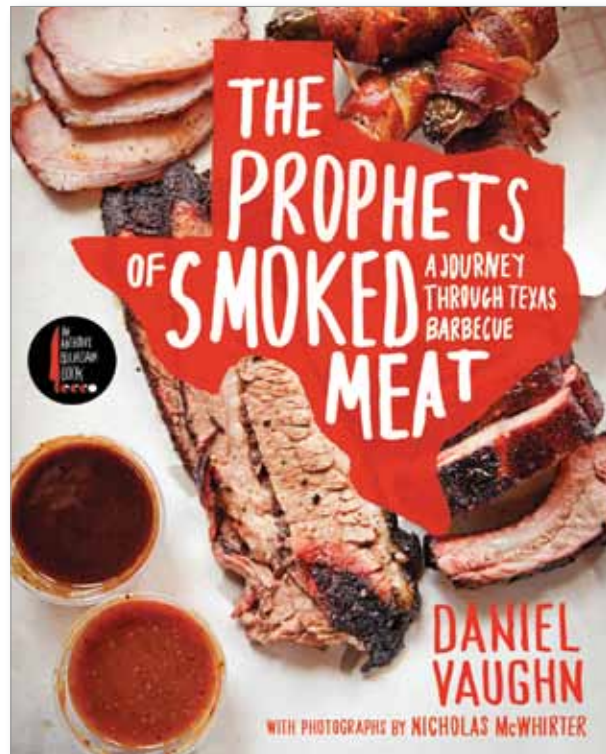
Make the most out of bedtime. Take advantage of this time to connect and talk about the day's events.

Take your kids to school. Use the drive as a chance to connect and talk about the day ahead.

Plan a lunch date. Set up a time when Dad can go to school and have lunch with your child.

Help with homework. Try allowing your child to hold off on homework until Dad gets home. This way, he's aware of what is being covered at school, and it allows him to see how they're progressing.

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king of barbecue

More than 10,000 Twitter followers know him as @BBQsnob. *Texas Monthly* readers know him as journalism's premier (and possibly only) barbecue editor. To his two children, Daniel Vaughn is known simply as "Dad." However you slice it, the self-proclaimed "Barbecue Snob" is a big deal. A Dallas transplant and former architect, Vaughn is a long way from his home state of Ohio. How does an Ohioan become known as the "King of Texas Barbecue?" One bite at a time. After moving to the Lone Star State, Vaughn's infatuation with Texas barbecue led to Full Custom Gospel BBQ, a blog chronicling his visit to some 600 barbecue joints. Most recently, the Barbecue Snob added published author to his impressive – albeit atypical – résumé. Just released, *The Prophets of Smoked Meat: A Journey Through Texas Barbecue* is the debut title in the Anthony Bourdain Books line and a volume destined to take residence somewhere near the family Bible on bookshelves of meat lovers nationwide. —Nicole Jordan

Pick up your copy of *The Prophets of Smoked Meat* for \$29.99 at barnesandnoble.com. Check out the blog that started it all at fcg-bbq.blogspot.com.



war wounds



Camp C.O.P.E.
Free of charge to children and their families.
Dallas, 214/991-2673
campcope.org

Prairie school district counselor, wanted to do something for children like her stepsons. So, with the help of her friend, child counselor Sarah Bravo, Camp C.O.P.E. was created. Camp C.O.P.E. (courage, optimism, patience and encouragement) welcomes children of deployed and injured service members for age-appropriate therapeutic interventions. Grouped with peers who've had similar experiences, campers are taught valuable coping skills in a fun, supportive manner. —N.J.

As Elizabeth Reep struggled to help her stepsons cope with their dad's deployment and subsequent war injuries, she came to realize that war leaves scars not only on the soldier sent to war but on the family left behind. For children, it is particularly difficult to comprehend the sudden and prolonged absence of a parent and the consequences of combat. Reep, a former Grand