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Publication of the third edition of Family Links steps and stages

“I don’t have a daddy” or “I have a new daddy” can be answers that children make in response to questions regarding their family life. Positive pointers on how to help parents explain the family situation to their children are contained in *Family Links steps and stages*.

This third edition of the *Family Links steps and stages, funded by the Family Support Agency and* published by Treoir, which operates the National Information Centre for Parents who are not married to each other, was launched on 20th October 2008.

Treoir published *Family Links steps and stages* in response to the many enquiries to the National Information Centre regarding parenting of children who are not living with both parents. Some parents do not realise the importance of children having a continuing relationship with both parents and can assume when the relationship between parents ends that the relationship between the children and one parent also ends. There can also be confusion around the question of identity within the step-parent family when one parent, usually mother, enters a new relationship.

All these issues are dealt with in *Family Links steps and stages*. Chapters include *Talking about your family situation, Shared Parenting, New families, Resolving disputes without going to court*.

Author Margot Doherty said “*All the research shows that children recognise the importance of a continuing relationship or link with both parents, no matter how distant. It is not adding people to children’s lives but taking important people away that is hard for children to accept.*”

Pat Bennett, CEO of the Family Support Agency who launched the publication, said “This book will be useful for all kinds of families, not just unmarried families, where not all members are living in the same household”.

Family Links steps and stages is available free of charge from

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