

IDAHO DADS

MATTER!

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The Day-to-Day Dad

... He Demonstrates His Affection 24/7

KUNA—Marcel Korvela watches three-year-old Radley play with his toy cars, lining them up and moving them around independently for the most part, but leaving space sometimes for his dad to join in. “I just try to help and encourage him as much as I can,” said the father of three.



“It’s important to build his self-belief from such an early age.”

Marcel’s seven-month-old daughter is happy to cuddle. “Little Belle just loves interaction and being held,” Marcel said, “although she loves playing with anything she can get her hands on, she has a stuffed animal which is probably her favorite toy.”

Good parenting is all about being there for your kids, says Marcel, and he divides his time depending on the needs of his children according to his perceptions of their developmental needs.

Erik Halpin, 13, likes trying out new restaurants, so Marcel takes him to different lunch and dinner spots in town to check out the cuisine. “We went to a Puerto Rican restaurant a

couple of weeks ago and he got to try some new things there.

Erik enjoys fencing, which he and Erik’s mom go to watch. “There is no such thing as being a perfect parent. Just be involved. The most important thing is setting a good example so that when they’re older, they’ll start appreciating the importance of what you taught them,” he said.

Dads can learn from their mistakes. “As a first-time dad, I’m learning a lot as times goes by,” Marcel said. “Some situations are certainly trickier than others. Whenever I’m in a dilemma, I always consult my wife. Whatever the outcome of that consultation may be, we always ensure that we do what’s best for our kids.”

Asked what advice he might offer other dads, Marcel Korvela said this: “Don’t just *say* that you love them, *show* that you love them; it’s the most important part of being a good dad, especially when you’ve been away for most of the day.”

“Don’t just say that you love them; show them that you love them.”

– Marcel Korvela