

## What Fathering's for...

Poetry by Mark Petruzzi  
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fathering is not for  
the weak of heart  
or the uncommitted

we step into life wobbly  
and full of yearning

we skip  
we laugh  
we scream  
we thrash  
we run  
we trip...

a dad has to know when to catch you  
when to let you fall

we look around for constancy  
and steadiness

is it anywhere?  
can i count on you?  
father is here...

fathering is for broad shoulders  
and truthful telling  
and holding up  
when life leans us over

when father is here  
it somehow works out

we looked here and there;  
we couldn't find it...!

father knew where to look!  
pop has an idea!  
dad can fix it!

comes a time when we can do it, too...

look at a thing broke and fix it  
catch an idea that's running away  
hold someone with strong arms  
and kind words  
and confident, honest love...

that's what fathering's for...