



The Cost of Opportunity Lost



The other day I was walking with a friend along a bike path, and it was a beautiful fall morning. We passed by the park and there they were, an army of fathers with children orbiting about. Coffee in hand, cell phones to their ears, text messages flying off into the unknown like scattered pigeons startled by the sounds of the children at play. One father meandered by on his bike as we progressed down the path. The now familiar tri-wheeled, mesh enclosed cart in tow, with the youngest of his children, head bobbing side to side in a pre-sleep state of discontent. The older child, perhaps six years of age, riding beside dad



on his tiny bike, seemingly accustomed to this excursion, alone and holding his experience in wait for the attention of his father, which did not seem to be coming anytime soon.

And Dad, blue tooth in ear, fully engaged in a friendly and somewhat rejuvenating discussion, indicated by his quick jabs and repartee with someone, who unbeknown to him or her, was participating in stealing the father's presence away from his children.

And I wondered, was the cost of these lost parenting opportunities worth it?

References

Fathering Journal, 2010

Image (search "Boy on Bike") courtesy of: [Shelby Bauman](#) [@scatteredbitsoflight](#)

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